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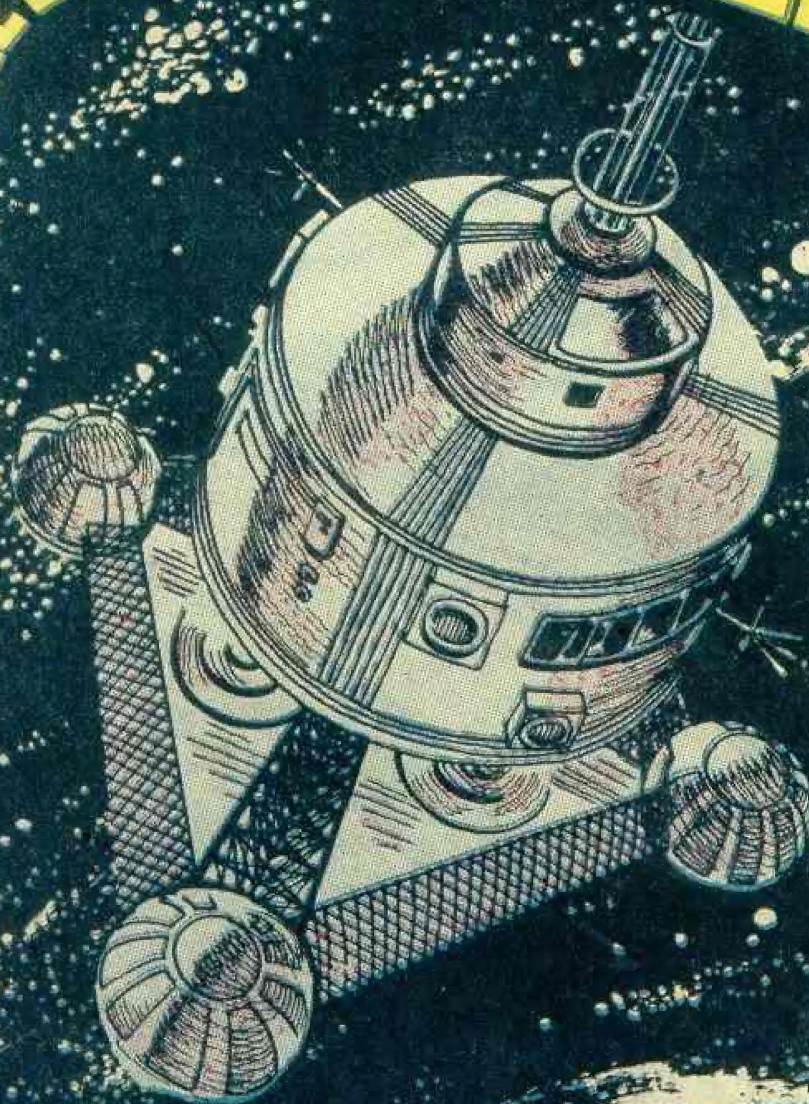
THE BLACK HOLE

Part I of the Movie—
The search for life on
other worlds plunges the
U.S.S. Palomino towards
the furthest edge
of outer space!



WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS

THE BLACK HOLE




MAN'S LONG SEARCH FOR LIFE IN THE LAST UNCHARTED AREA OF THIS GALAXY IS DRAWING TO A CLOSE AS THE U.S.S. PALOMINO, A DEEP-SPACE EXPLORER CRAFT, SETS ITS COURSE FOR HOME. THIS EXPEDITION, AFTER EIGHTEEN MONTHS OF THE MOST EXTENSIVE EXPLORATION, HAS NETTED, AS HAVE ALL PAST SEARCHES, NOTHING.

WALT DISNEY PRODUCTIONS
THE BLACK HOLE, No. 1, 1980

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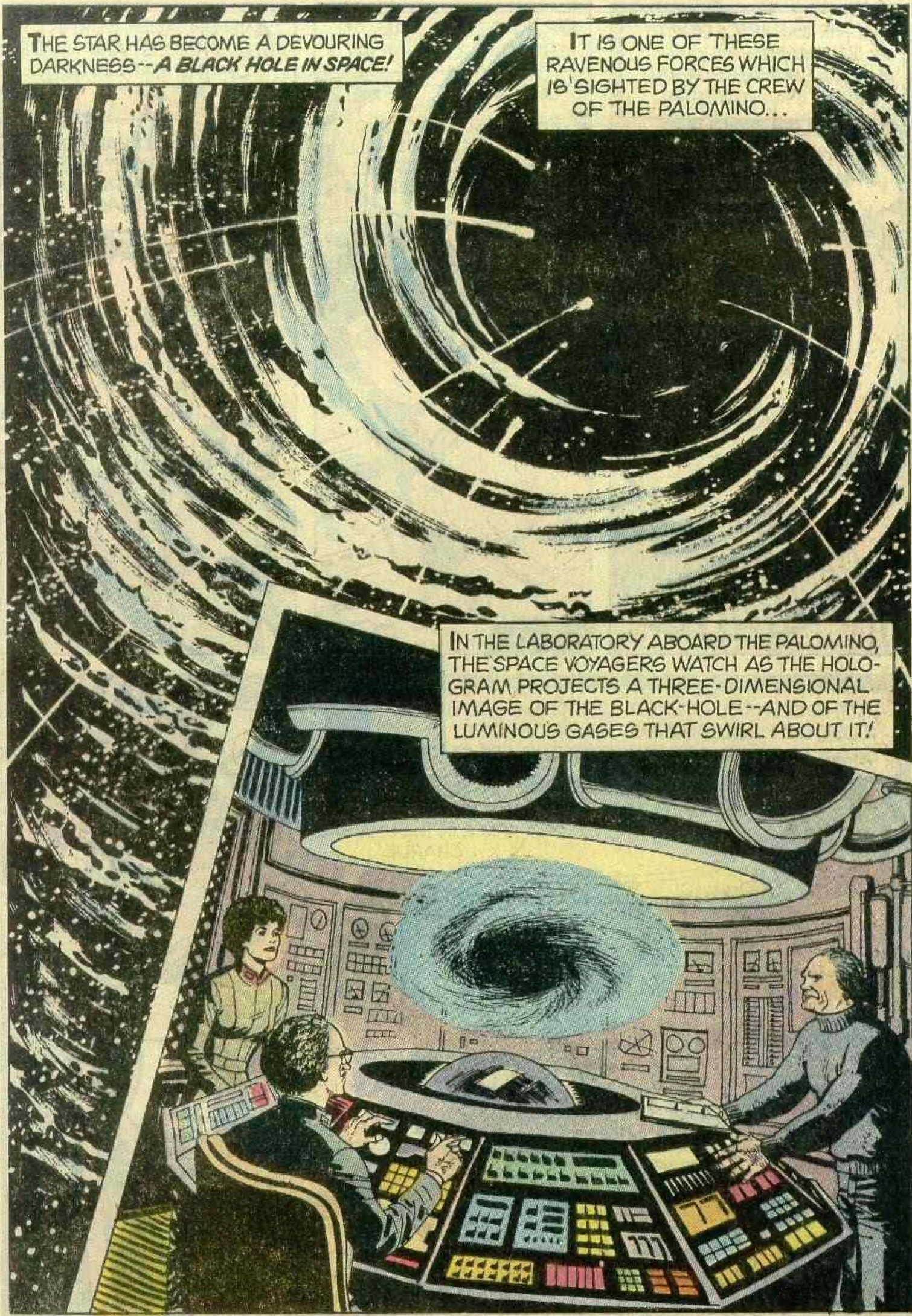
IN OUR GALAXY, THERE ARE TRILLIONS OF STARS. MOST ARE UNNAMED--AT LEAST BY US. AT ANY GIVEN MOMENT SOME OF THESE STARS ARE DYING. SOME CONSUME THEMSELVES. OTHERS EXPLODE, BLOWING THEMSELVES TO PIECES. STILL OTHERS CONTRACT AND DRAW IN UPON THEMSELVES.

WHEN A DYING STAR CONTRACTS, THE MATTER OF WHICH IT IS MADE IS TREMENDOUSLY COMPRESSED. THE STAR SHRINKS WITHOUT LIMIT, AND ITS SURFACE GRAVITY RISES. GASES, METEORS AND EVEN OTHER STARS ARE SWEEPED INTO ITS CORE, AND NOTHING EVER AGAIN ESCAPES INTO OUR UNIVERSE--NOT EVEN LIGHT!

THE STAR HAS BECOME A DEVOURING
DARKNESS--A **BLACK HOLE IN SPACE!**

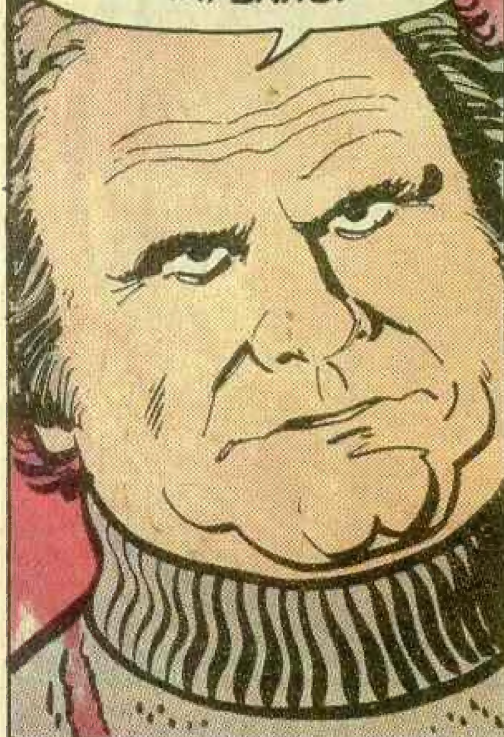
IT IS ONE OF THESE
RAVENOUS FORCES WHICH
IS SIGHTED BY THE CREW
OF THE PALOMINO...

IN THE LABORATORY ABOARD THE PALOMINO,
THE SPACE VOYAGERS WATCH AS THE HOLO-
GRAM PROJECTS A THREE-DIMENSIONAL
IMAGE OF THE BLACK-HOLE--AND OF THE
LUMINOUS GASES THAT SWIRL ABOUT IT!



THERE IS HARRY BOOTH,
A JOURNALIST WHO IS
KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT
SCIENTIFIC MATTERS...

IT'S LIKE SOME-
THING OUT OF *DANTE'S*
INFERNO!



DR. KATE MCCRAE, AN
ASTRO-GEOPHYSICIST...

I HAD A
PROFESSOR WHO SAID
THAT BLACK HOLES WILL
EVENTUALLY DEVOUR THE
ENTIRE UNIVERSE!



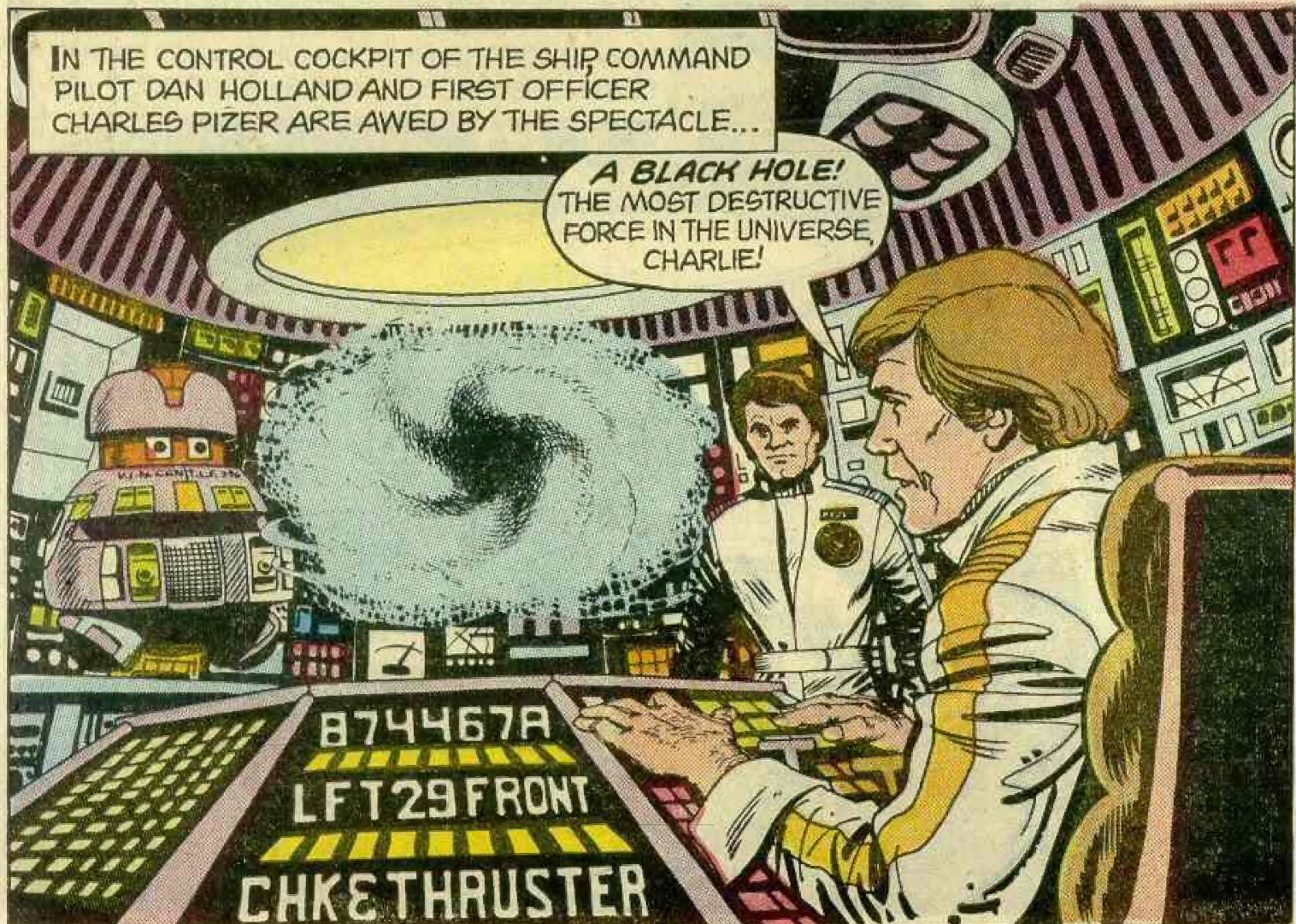
AND DR. ALEX DURANT,
ASTRO-PHYSICIST AND LEADER
OF THE EXPEDITION...

IT COULD HAPPEN!
GIANT SUNS GET SUCKED
IN--AND DISAPPEAR WITH-
OUT A TRACE!



IN THE CONTROL COCKPIT OF THE SHIP, COMMAND
PILOT DAN HOLLAND AND FIRST OFFICER
CHARLES PIZER ARE AWED BY THE SPECTACLE...

A BLACK HOLE!
THE MOST DESTRUCTIVE
FORCE IN THE UNIVERSE,
CHARLIE!



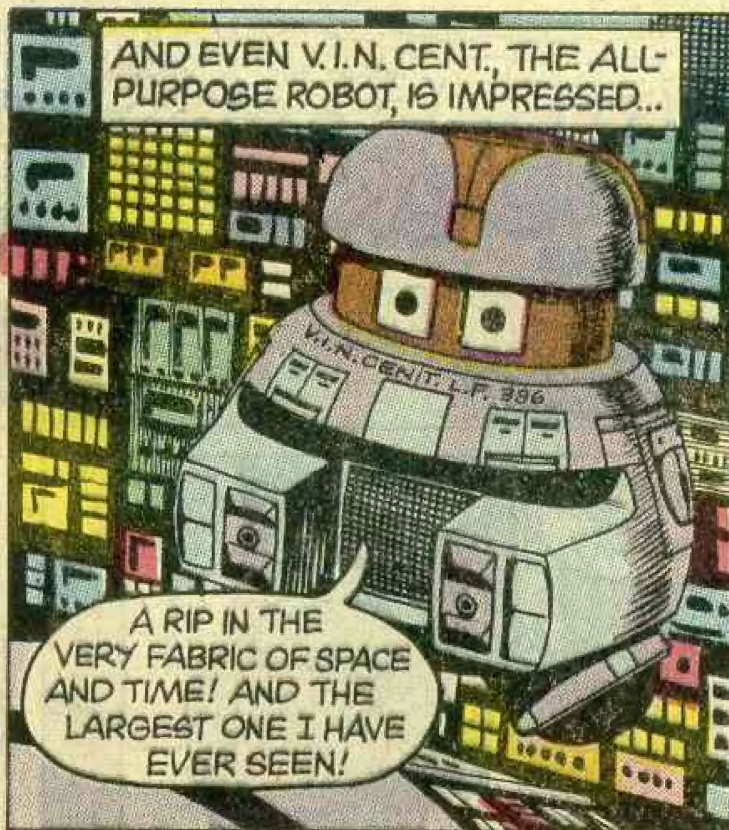
DAN HOLLAND IS EXCITED...

IT'S A
REAL MONSTER,
ISN'T IT?



AND EVEN V.I.N. CENT, THE ALL-
PURPOSE ROBOT, IS IMPRESSED...

A RIP IN THE
VERY FABRIC OF SPACE
AND TIME! AND THE
LARGEST ONE I HAVE
EVER SEEN!

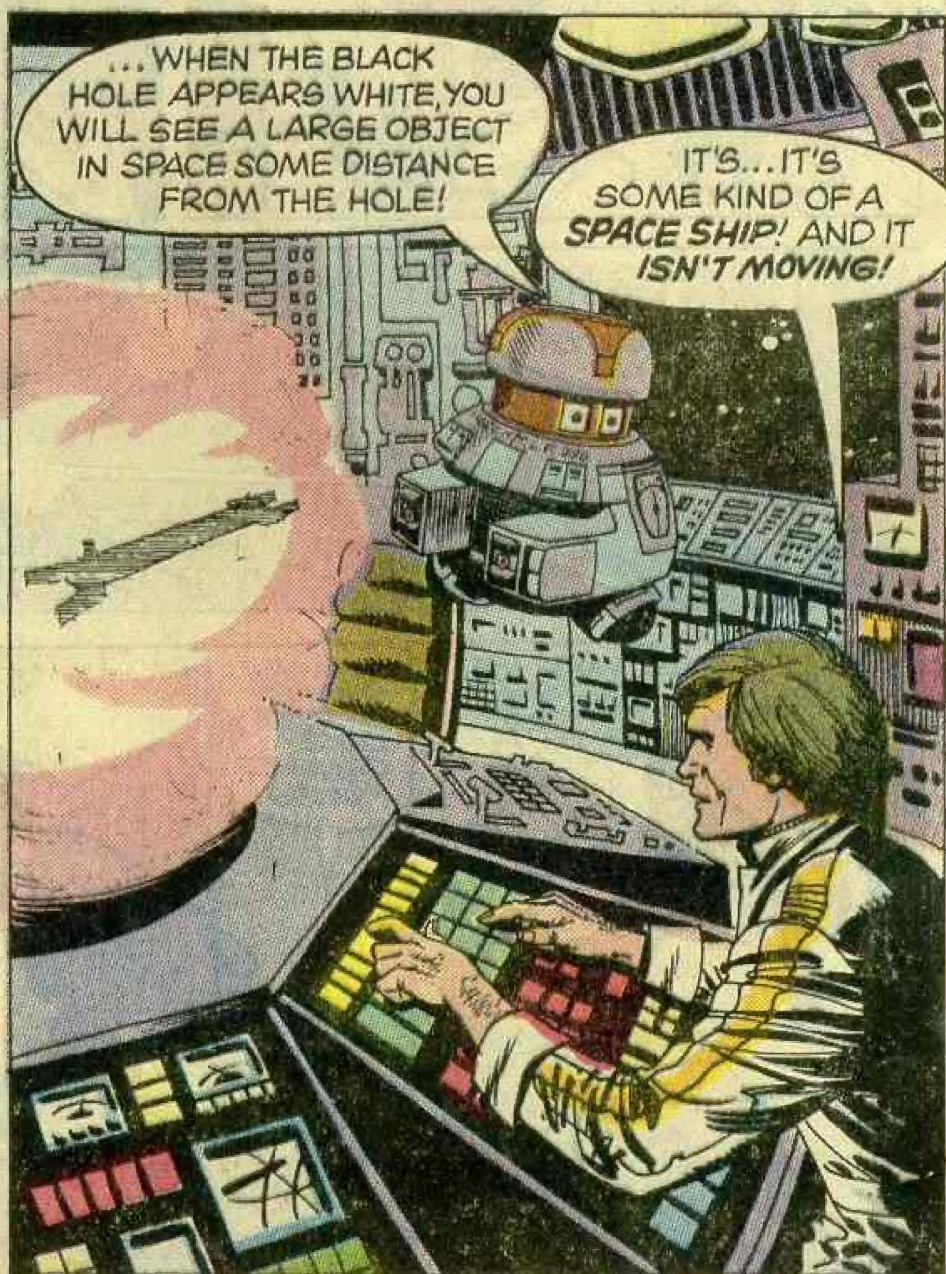


BUT I HAVE PICKED
UP SOMETHING ELSE OF
INTEREST! IF I MAY CHANGE
THE CONTROL SO THAT THE
IMAGE ON THE HOLOGRAM
IS POLARIZED!

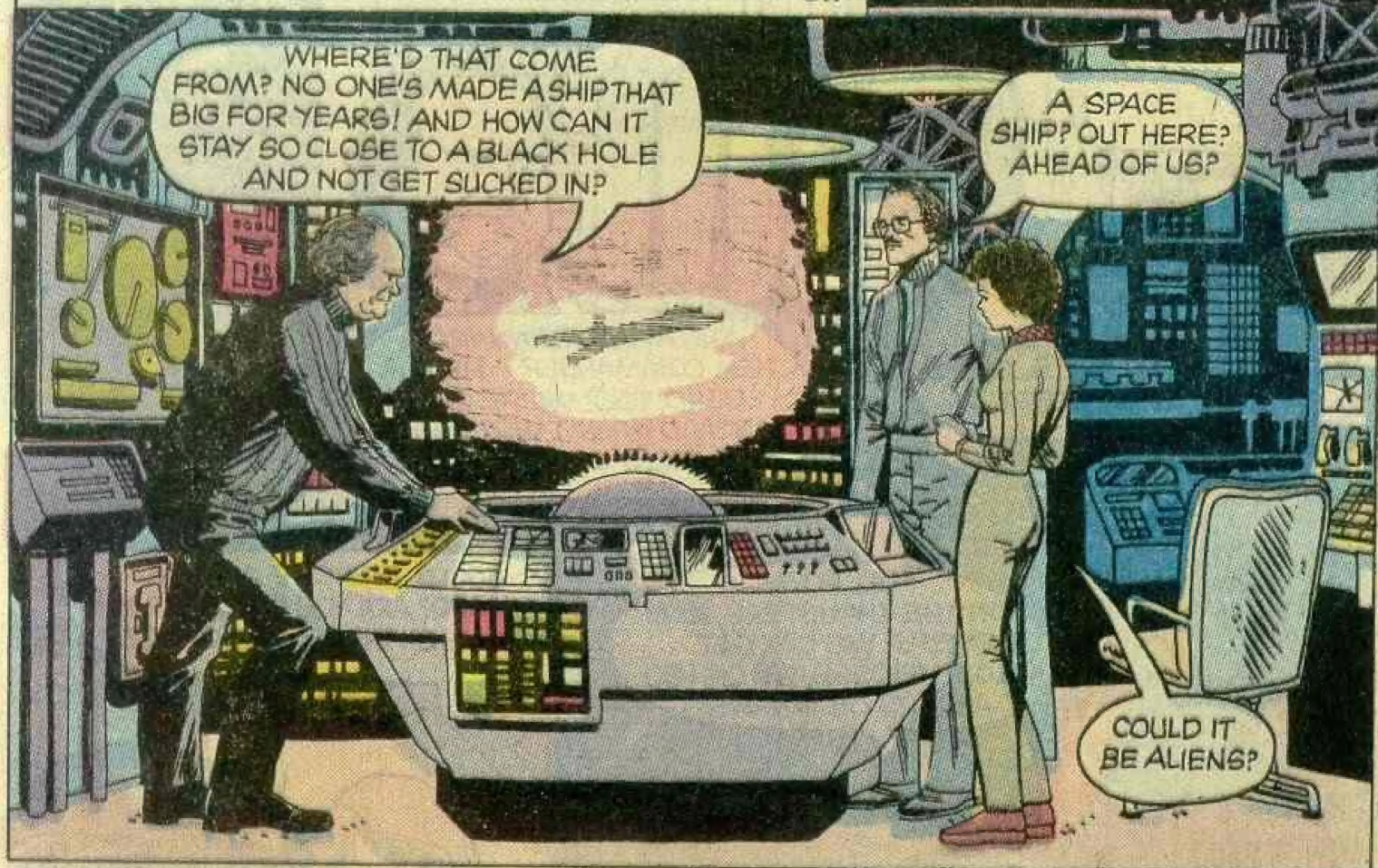


... WHEN THE BLACK
HOLE APPEARS WHITE, YOU
WILL SEE A LARGE OBJECT
IN SPACE SOME DISTANCE
FROM THE HOLE!

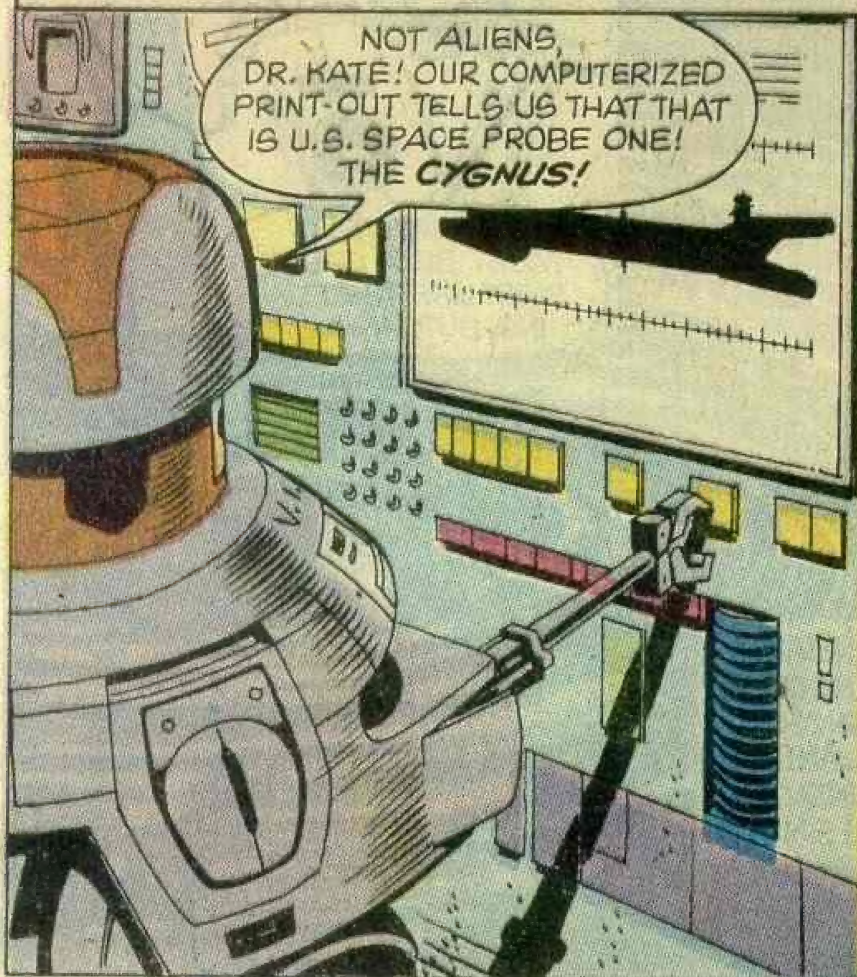
IT'S...IT'S
SOME KIND OF A
SPACE SHIP! AND IT
ISN'T MOVING!




IN THE LABORATORY THERE IS CONSTERNATION AT THE SIGHT OF THE POLARIZED IMAGE WITH THE SPACECRAFT POISED SO PRECARIOUSLY AT THE EDGE OF CHAOS...



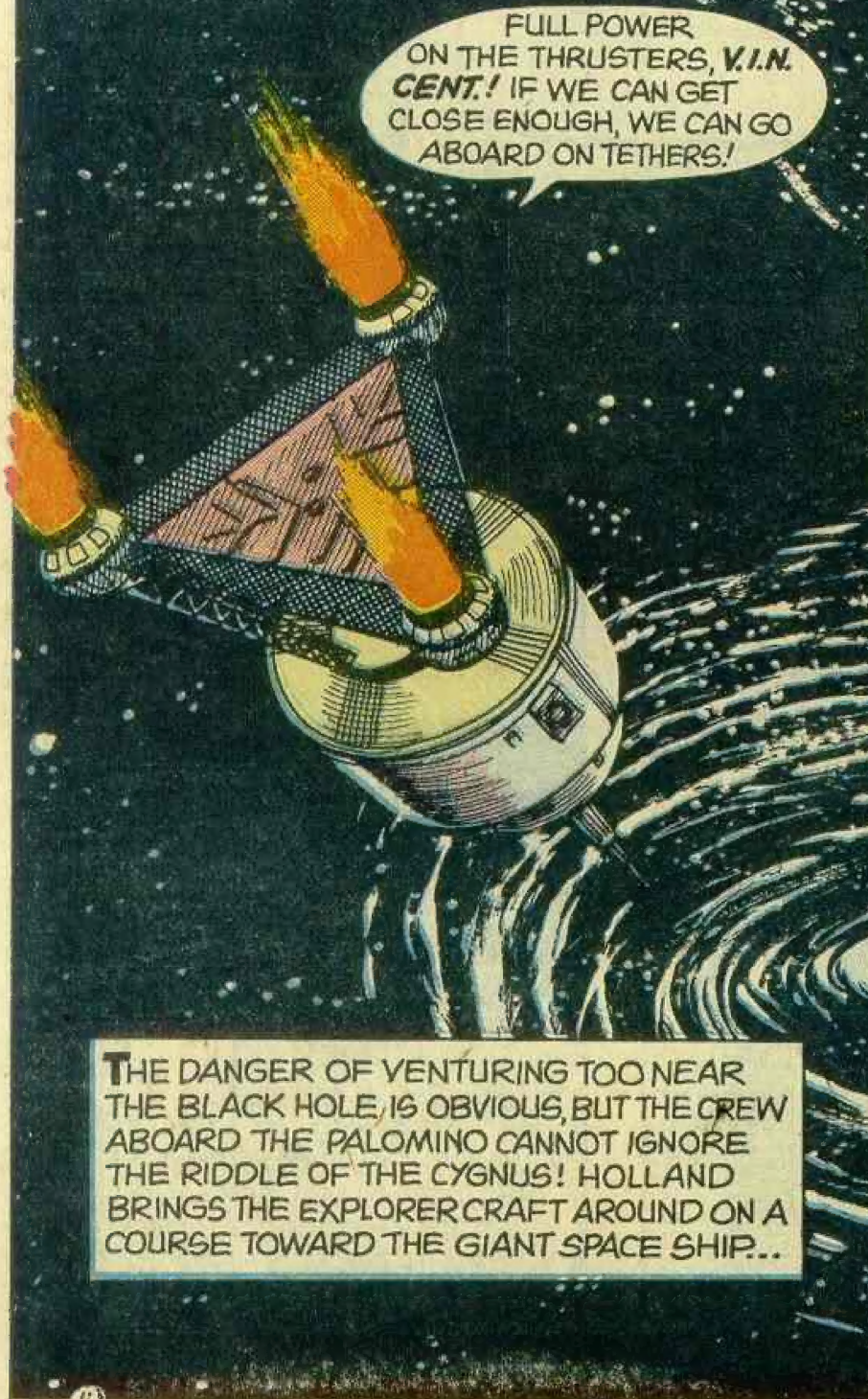
V.I.N. CENT. HEARS KATE'S REMARKS ON THE COMMUNICATOR, AND HE QUICKLY REASSURES HER...





THE CYGNUS!
AFTER ALL THESE
YEARS! WHY SHE'S...SHE'S
BECOME A LEGEND!

AND **HANS REINHARDT**,
HER COMMANDER--HE'S A
LEGEND, TOO! WE'RE GOING
ABOARD, AREN'T WE? THIS IS
THE STORY OF A LIFETIME!



FULL POWER
ON THE THRUSTERS, **V.I.N.
CENT!** IF WE CAN GET
CLOSE ENOUGH, WE CAN GO
ABOARD ON TETHERS!



COULD THERE BE ANYONE
ABOARD? ARE YOU PICKING UP ANY-
THING ON THE SENSORS, CHARLIE?

NEGATIVE! IT
MUST BE A GHOST
SHIP! LIKE THE FLY-
ING DUTCHMAN!

THE DANGER OF VENTURING TOO NEAR
THE BLACK HOLE, IS OBVIOUS, BUT THE CREW
ABOARD THE PALOMINO CANNOT IGNORE
THE RIDDLE OF THE CYGNUS! HOLLAND
BRINGS THE EXPLORER CRAFT AROUND ON A
COURSE TOWARD THE GIANT SPACE SHIP...

THE CRAFT IS BUFFETED BY TURBULENCE AS SHE CHANGES ATTITUDE...

CAN THE ENGINES OPERATE AGAINST THAT MUCH FORCE WHEN WE TURN BACK?

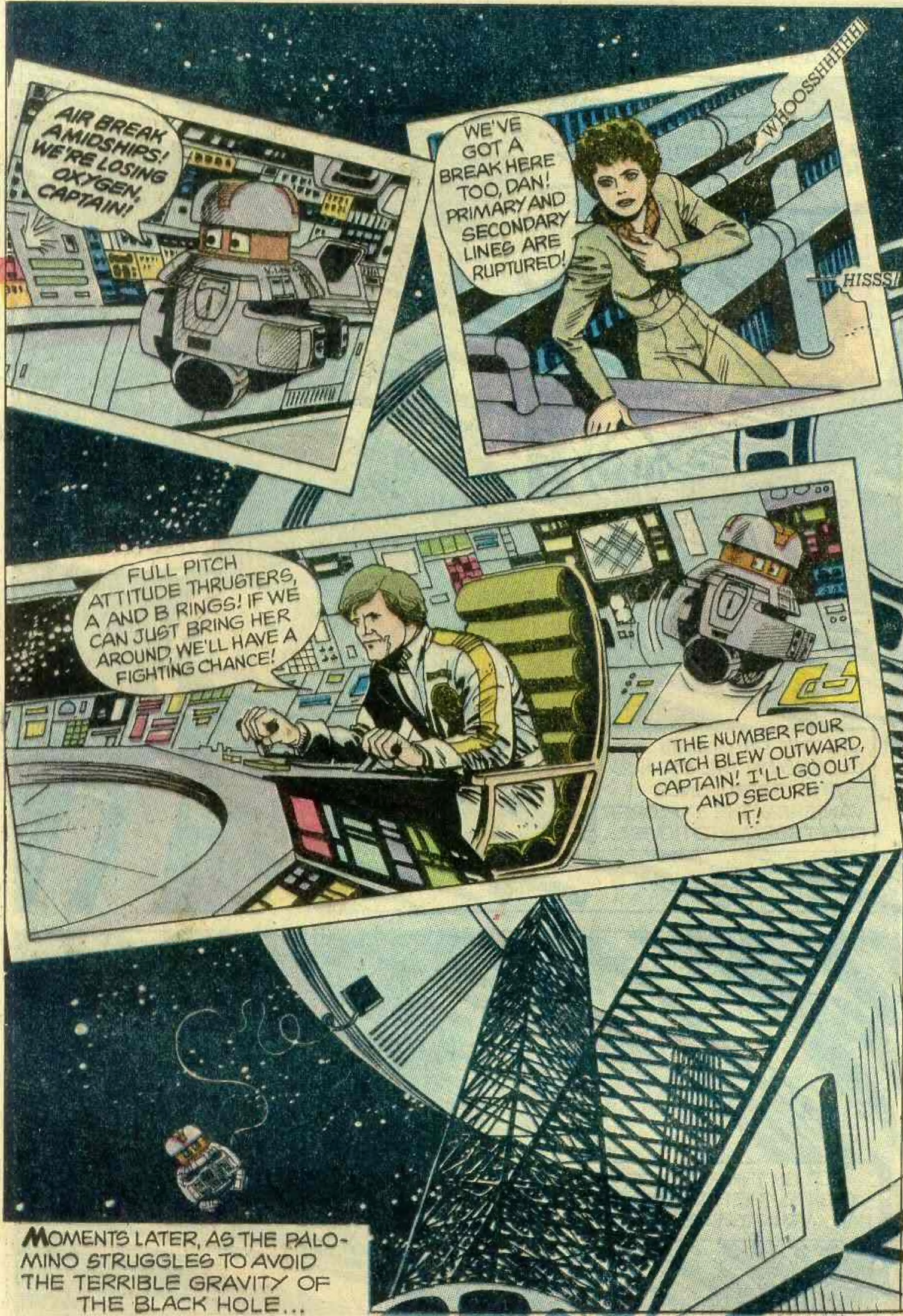
GRAVITY PULL IS .46963 AND RISING! SHE'S BUCKING LIKE A BRONCO!

WHAT ON EARTH? IT'S SMOOTH AS GLASS! ZERO GRAVITY!

AS THE PALOMINO CLOSES ON THE CYGNUS THE TURBULENCE VANISHES! THE EXPLORER CRAFT SEEMS TO HOVER...

BUT ON THE FAR SIDE OF THE CYGNUS, THE PALOMINO STARTS TO FALL AGAIN TOWARD THE BLACK HOLE...

IT'S GOT US! QUICK! A HUNDRED PERCENT ON ROLL-JET QUADS!



AIR BREAK
AMIDSHIPS!
WE'RE LOSING
OXYGEN,
CAPTAIN!

WE'VE
GOT A
BREAK HERE
TOO, DAN!
PRIMARY AND
SECONDARY
LINES ARE
RUPTURED!

WHOOOSHHHHH!

HISSSI!

FULL PITCH
ATTITUDE THRUSTERS,
A AND B RINGS! IF WE
CAN JUST BRING HER
AROUND, WE'LL HAVE A
FIGHTING CHANCE!

THE NUMBER FOUR
HATCH BLEW OUTWARD,
CAPTAIN! I'LL GO OUT
AND SECURE
IT!

**MOMENTS LATER, AS THE PALO-
MINO STRUGGLES TO AVOID
THE TERRIBLE GRAVITY OF
THE BLACK HOLE...**

BUT THE INSTANT THE ROBOT LEAVES THE EXPLORER CRAFT, COMMUNICATION WITH THE CONTROL COCKPIT IS CUT OFF...

V.I.N. CENT, COME IN!
V.I.N. CENT, DO YOU READ ME?
COME IN, V.I.N. CENT.!

IT'S NO USE, CHARLIE!
THERE'S TOO MUCH INTERFER-
ENCE OUTSIDE! HE'S PROGRAMMED
TO RESPOND TO KATE WITH **ESP!**
MAYBE THAT WILL WORK!

KATE, WOULD YOU SEE IF YOU
CAN GET THROUGH TO V.I.N. CENT.? WE
AREN'T GETTING ANY SIGNALS
FROM HIM!



KATE CONCENTRATES, AND ALMOST IMMEDIATELY SHE REACHES V.I.N. CENT, WHO IS PROPELLING HIMSELF THROUGH THE DARKNESS BENEATH THE PALOMINO...

V.I.N. CENT.'S OKAY,
DAN! HE'S SECURED THE
HATCH AND... AND...

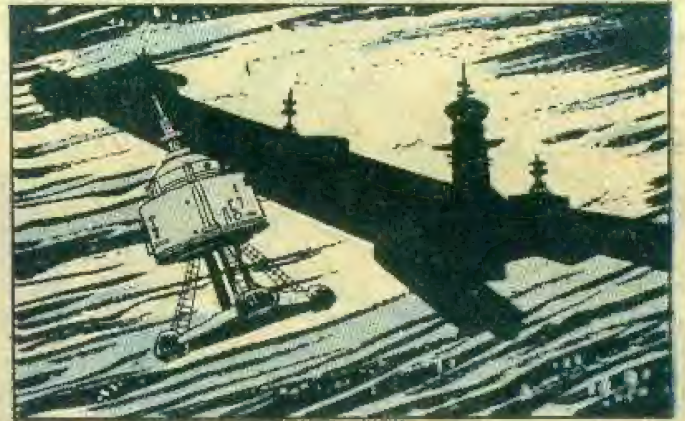
DAN!
HIS TETHER'S
BROKEN!



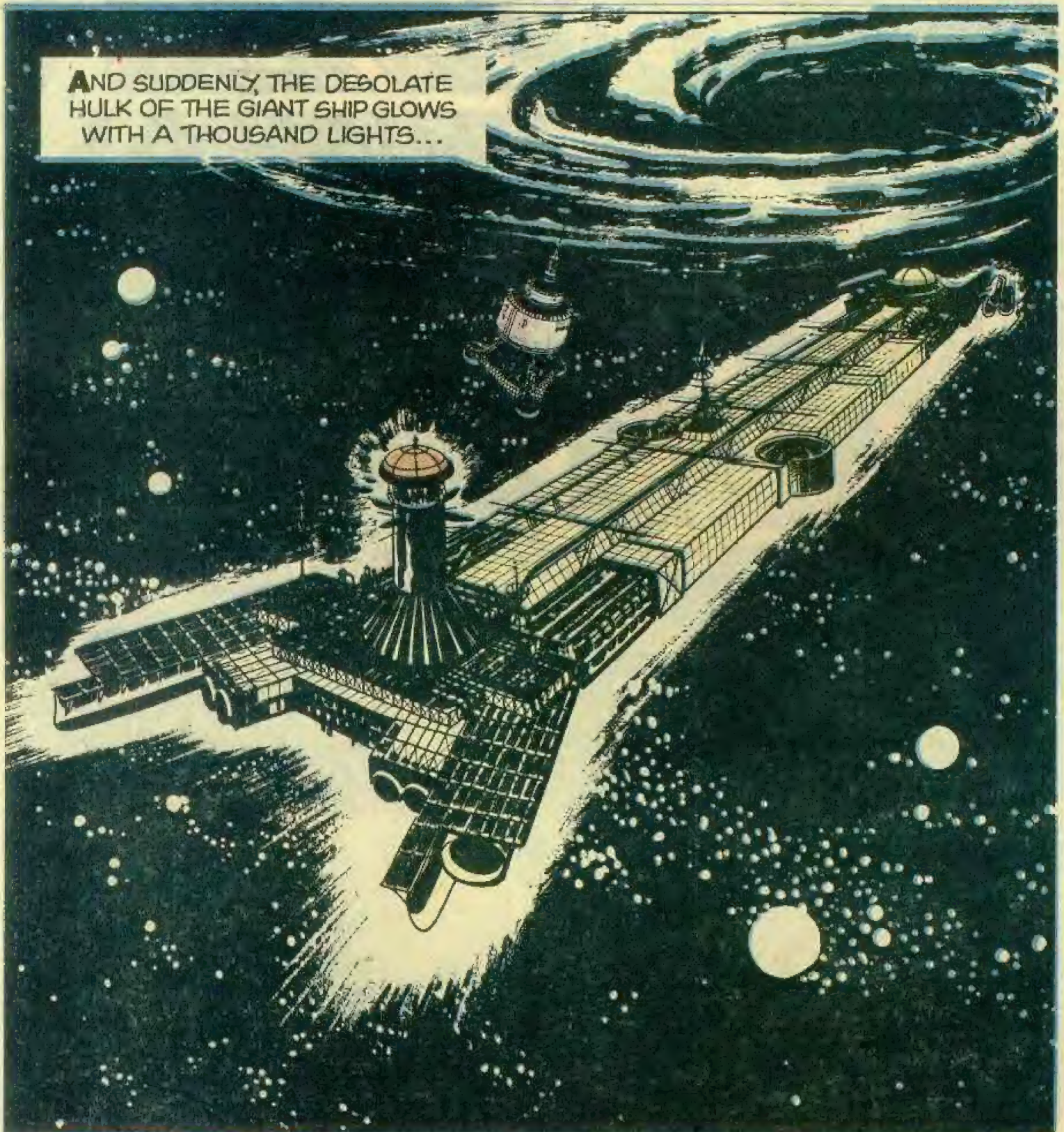



TELL HIM TO
HANG ON, KATE! WE'RE
TRYING TO BACKTRACK TO
ZERO GRAVITY AROUND
THE CYGNUS!

THE PALOMINO SHUDDERED ITS WAY BACK
INTO THE CALM AROUND THE CYGNUS...



AND SUDDENLY, THE DESOLATE
HULK OF THE GIANT SHIP GLOWS
WITH A THOUSAND LIGHTS...





MY GOSH!
IT'S LIT UP LIKE A
CHRISTMAS
TREE!

WEIRD! I DON'T
LIKE IT! BETTER LOCK
THE WARHEADS INTO
FIRING POSITION!



ALEX,
THERE'S SOME-
ONE **ALIVE** DOWN
THERE!

EASY, KATE!
TRY TO KEEP CALM!
IT'S BEEN TWENTY
YEARS, REMEMBER?



A DOCKING ELEVATOR
COMING UP! BUT WHY DIDN'T
THEY ROLL OUT THE RED
CARPET EARLIER?

I DON'T KNOW! BUT
THEY'RE CALLING THE
SHOTS, AND WE'VE GOT TO
REPAIR THIS SHIP! I'M
TAKING HER DOWN!

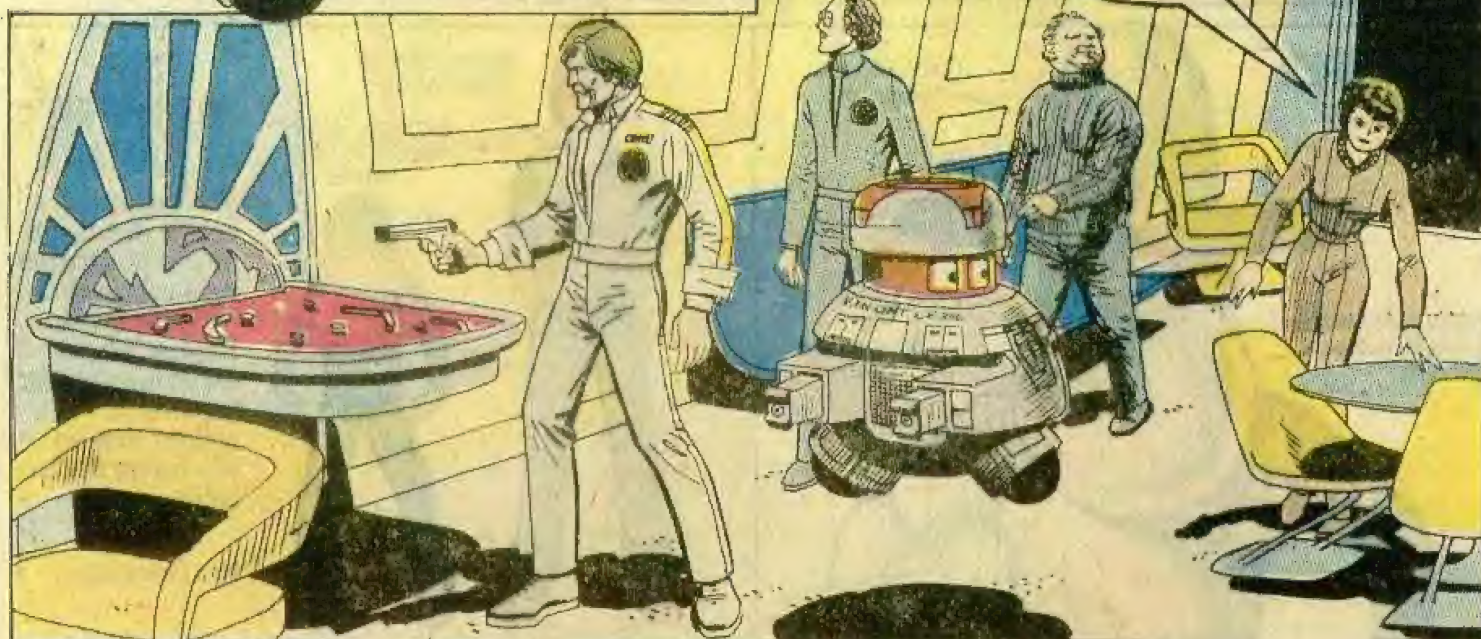
DON'T WORRY,
MR. PIZER, THEY ALSO
SERVE WHO ONLY
STAND AND WAIT!

AND **NOW**
I'VE GOT TO PLAY
SECOND FIDDLE
TO A TIN CAN!

BEYOND THE HATCH OF THE CYGNUS IS A
SORT OF RECEPTION ROOM--A DREARY PLACE
WHICH APPEARS FORLORN AND NEGLECTED...

THOSE LIGHTS! AND
THE DOCKING ELEVATOR!
SOMEONE'S **GOT** TO BE
ABOARD! BUT WHERE?

IT LOOK AS
IF IT'S BEEN DE-
SERTED FOR YEARS!
AND YET I FEEL AS
IF SOMEONE'S
WATCHING US!



SUDDENLY, FROM TURRETS
IN THE WALLS, LASER FIRE
CRACKS LIKE LIGHTNING...

KAZAMI! BLAZZZ!



CHARLIE, DO YOU READ ME? OUR WEAPONS WERE DESTROYED BY LASER FIRE, BUT WE HAVE NO INJURIES! YOU HOLD YOUR POSITION!

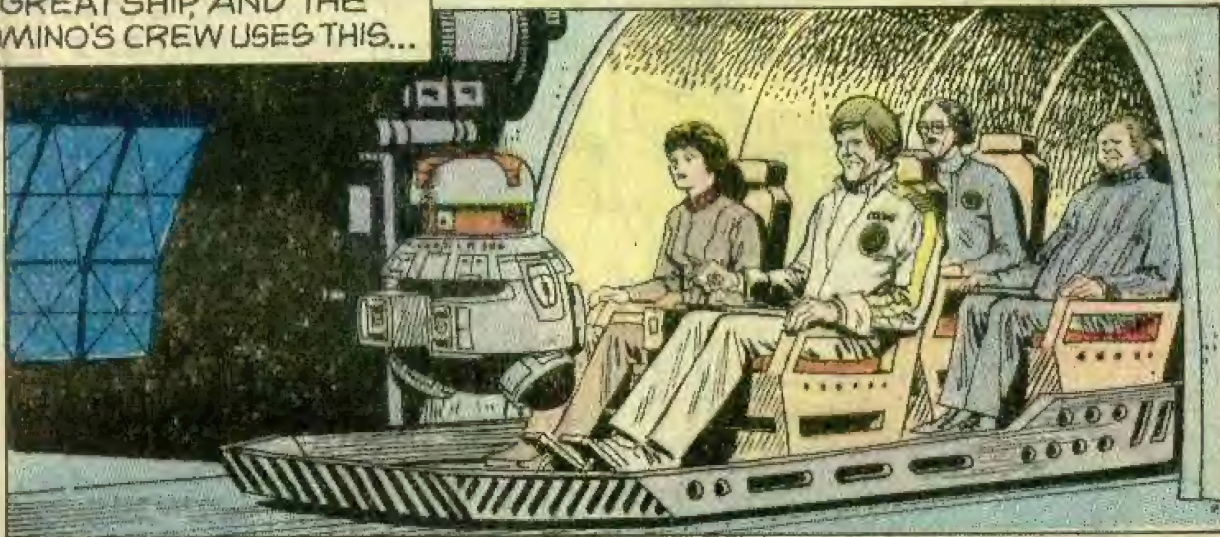
DOWN, BUT NOT FOR THE FULL COUNT, DR. KATE!

V.I.N.CENT, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?

A DOOR FROM THE RECEPTION AREA OPENS SILENTLY...

SLOWLY, CAUTIOUSLY, THE EXPLORERS FROM THE PALOMINO VENTURE INTO THE MAIN CORRIDOR OF THE CYGNUS...

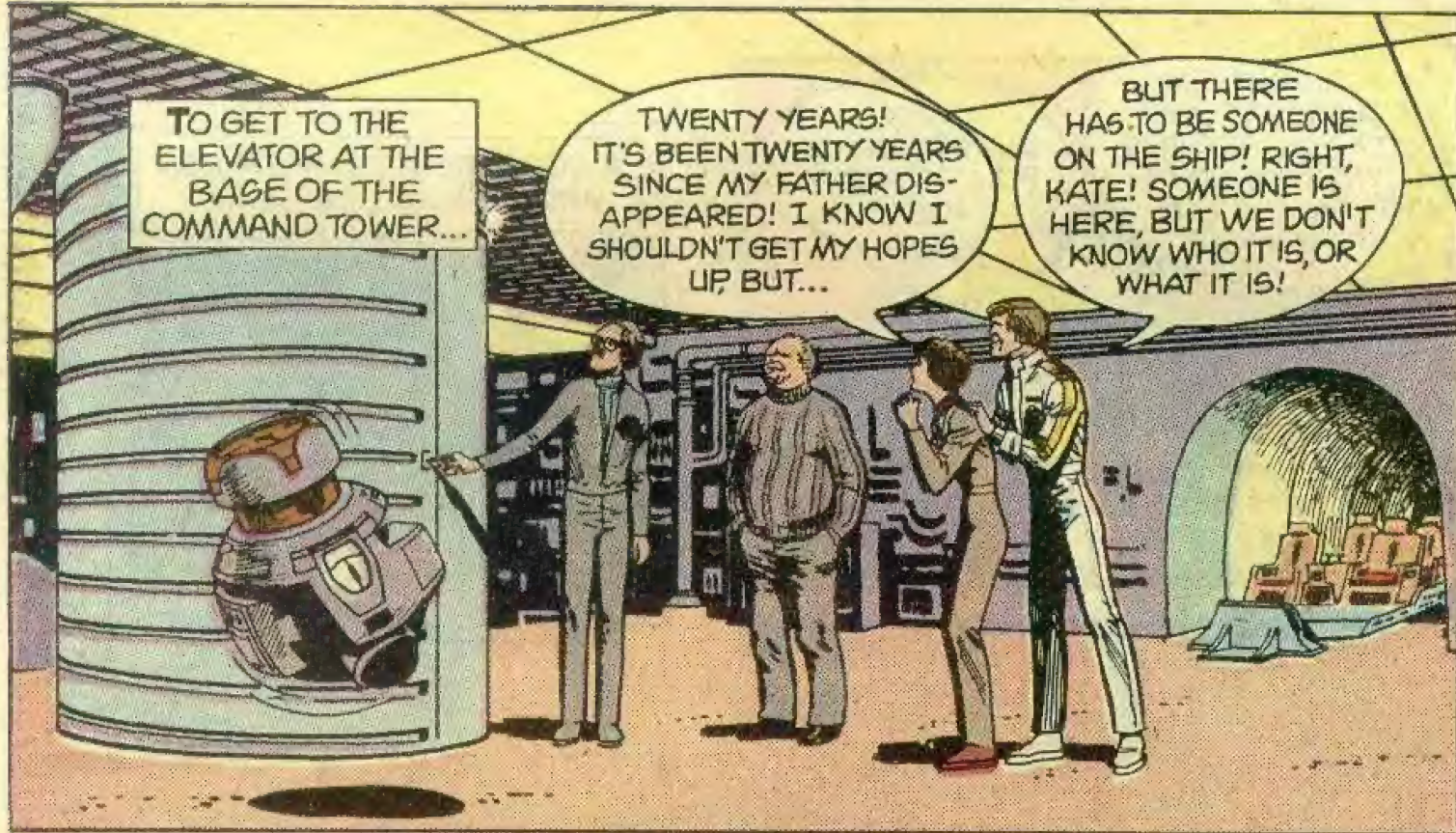
A CYLINDER ENCLOSING AN AIR CAR RUNS THE LENGTH OF THE GREAT SHIP, AND THE PALOMINO'S CREW USES THIS...



TO GET TO THE
ELEVATOR AT THE
BASE OF THE
COMMAND TOWER...

TWENTY YEARS!
IT'S BEEN TWENTY YEARS
SINCE MY FATHER DIS-
APPEARED! I KNOW I
SHOULDN'T GET MY HOPES
UP, BUT...

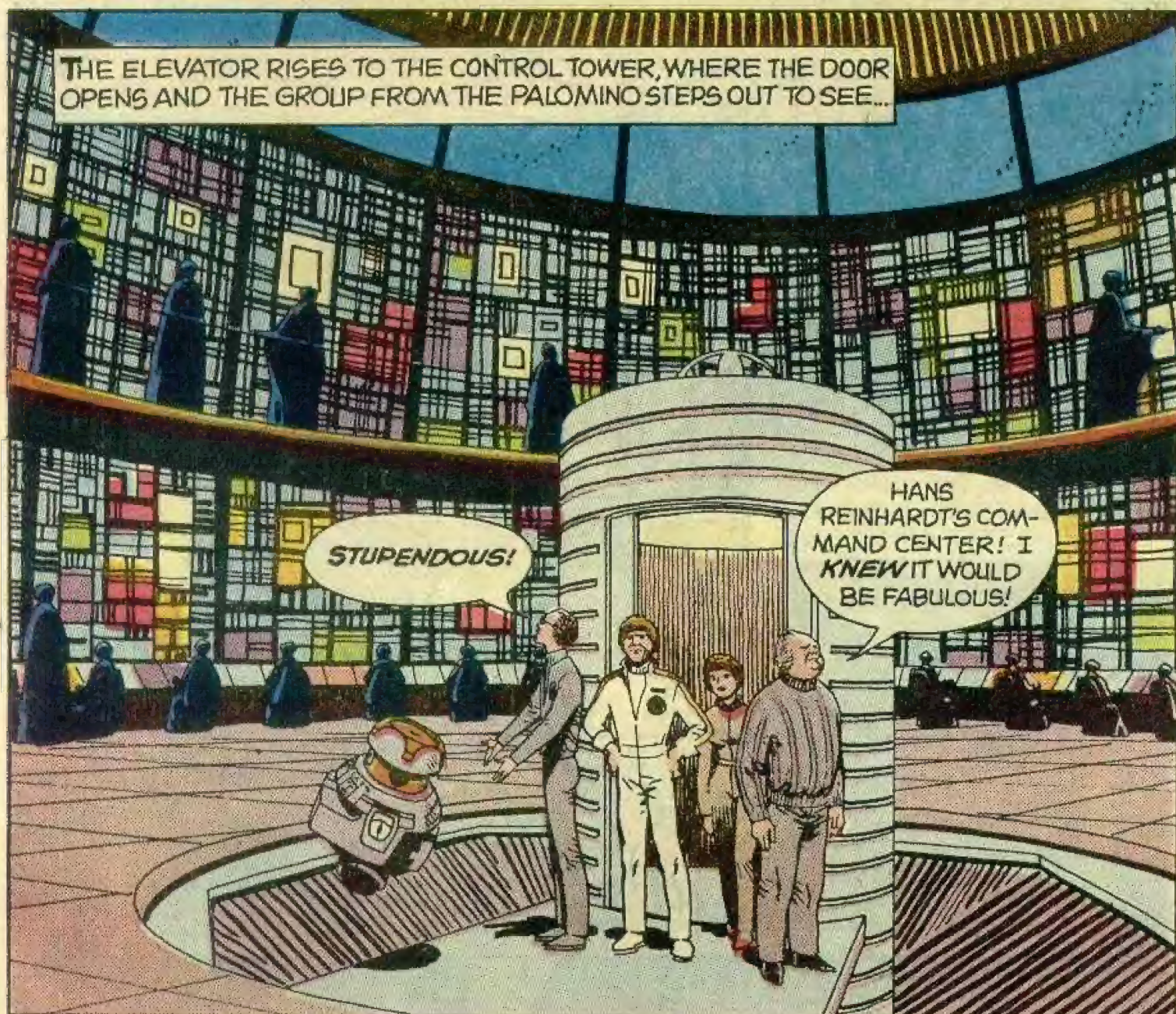
BUT THERE
HAS TO BE SOMEONE
ON THE SHIP! RIGHT,
KATE! SOMEONE IS
HERE, BUT WE DON'T
KNOW WHO IT IS, OR
WHAT IT IS!



THE ELEVATOR RISES TO THE CONTROL TOWER, WHERE THE DOOR
OPENS AND THE GROUP FROM THE PALOMINO STEPS OUT TO SEE...

STUPENDOUS!

HANS
REINHARDT'S COM-
MAND CENTER! I
KNEW IT WOULD
BE FABULOUS!





WE WERE ADRIFT--
DISABLED AFTER WE EN-
COUNTERED A FIELD OF
METEORITES! FIRST OFFICER
McCREA WAS KILLED! THEN
THE MISSION WAS RE-
CALLED TO EARTH! I CHOSE
TO REMAIN WITH MY SHIP AND
TOLD THE CREW TO ABANDON
THE CYGNUS!



I REGRET THAT A SLIGHT COMMUNI-
CATIONS PROBLEM PREVENTED MY RESPOND-
ING TO YOUR SIGNAL EARLIER, CAPTAIN
HOLLAND! BUT NOW MAXIMILLIAN WILL
TAKE YOU TO REQUISITION WHAT-
EVER YOU NEED TO REPAIR
YOUR SHIP!



I GATHER THAT
NONE OF THE CREW
REACHED EARTH AND...
AH, MR. PIZER! WON'T
YOU JOIN US?

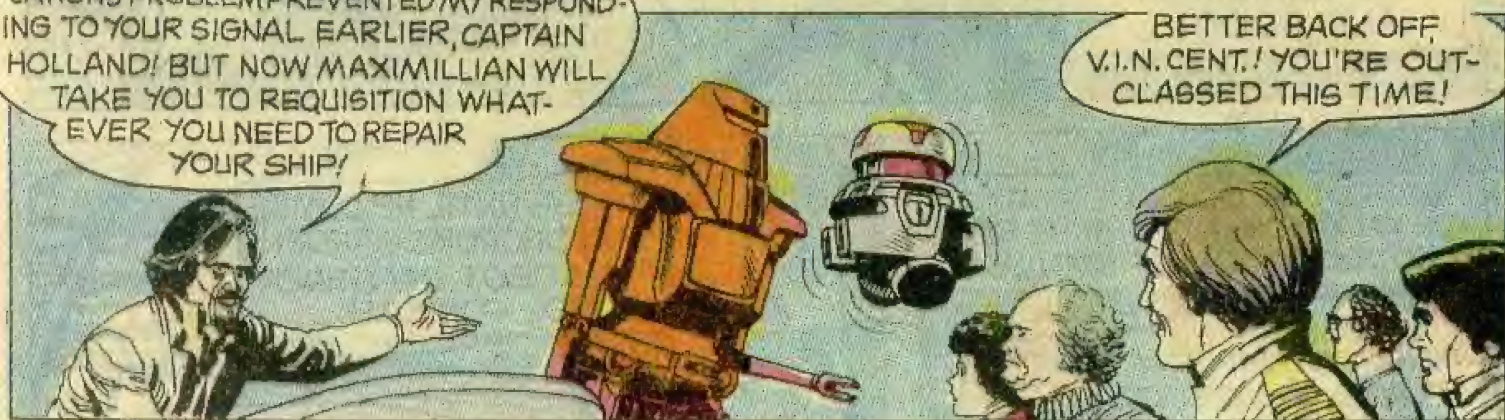
DO
I HAVE A
CHOICE?

MR. PIZER WAS DISARMED
FOR HIS OWN SAFETY, DR. DURANT!
MY ROBOTS ARE PROGRAMMED TO
BE SUSPICIOUS IN SITUATIONS
LIKE THIS! BUT REST ASSURED,
YOU ARE NOT PRISONERS!
YOU ARE MY GUESTS!

THERE'S A WHOLE ARMY
OF THOSE MECHANICAL GOONS
ABOARD, AND NOBODY TOLD
THEM WE'RE GUESTS!



BETTER BACK OFF,
V.I.N.CENT! YOU'RE OUT-
CLASSED THIS TIME!




MAXIMILLIAN LEADS THE WAY TO A SUPPLY ROOM.
STOCKED WITH LONG-UNUSED PARTS, THERE V.I.N.CENT,
ENCOUNTERS A DUSTY OLD ROBOT NAMED B.O.B..




HOW DO YOU DO! I'M V.I.N.CENT.
--396TH LABOR FORCE! I SEE
BY YOUR MARKINGS THAT
YOU'RE FROM THE OLD 28TH!

WE'LL NEED PRIMARY
AND SECONDARY DEMAND
OXYGEN PRESSURE
REGULATORS!




SAY, CHARLIE,
WHILE YOU'RE GETTING
THE PARTS, I'LL HEAD BACK
TO THE PALOMINO AND
START DISMANTLING
THE REGULATOR!




THE CYGNUS ISN'T
A CRIPPLED SHIP NOW.
WE REPAIRED THE
DAMAGE CAUSED BY THE
METEORITE AND I HAVE DE-
VELOPED MY OWN SOURCE OF
POWER, USING HYDROGEN AND
MATTER-ANTI-MATTER! THERE'S
ENOUGH ENERGY DOWN THERE
TO SUPPLY ALL OF EARTH!

MEANWHILE, HANS
REINHARDT IS
PROUDLY CONDUCTING
A GUIDED TOUR OF
THE CYGNUS FOR
KATE, DURANT
AND BOOTH...



REINHARDT IS SO DELIGHTED TO
HAVE AN AUDIENCE, THAT HE DOES
NOT NOTICE BOOTH SLIPPING AWAY...

WE HAVE
DEVELOPED ANTI-GRAV-
ITY FORCES, OF COURSE, TO
MAINTAIN OUR POSITION IN
RELATION TO THE BLACK
HOLE!



BOOTH EXPLORES UNTIL HE COMES
UPON A VAST HYDROPONIC GARDEN
TENDED BY A ROBOT GARDENER
AT A CONTROL CONSOLE...

YOU'RE QUITE AN AMAZ-
ING ROBOT, YOU KNOW THAT?
I DON'T SUPPOSE YOU'RE PRO-
GRAMMED TO SPEAK, ARE YOU?
THAT WOULD MAKE YOU
TOO REAL!

BUT WHEN THE ROBOT
LEAVES THE CONTROLS...

WHAT? IT'S LIMPING! A
ROBOT WITH A LIMP? AND TEND-
ING THIS HUGE VEGETABLE PATCH?
WHY IS IT SO BIG? WITH ONLY REIN-
HARDT ABOARD, WHO NEEDS AN
AGRICULTURAL STATION THIS SIZE?

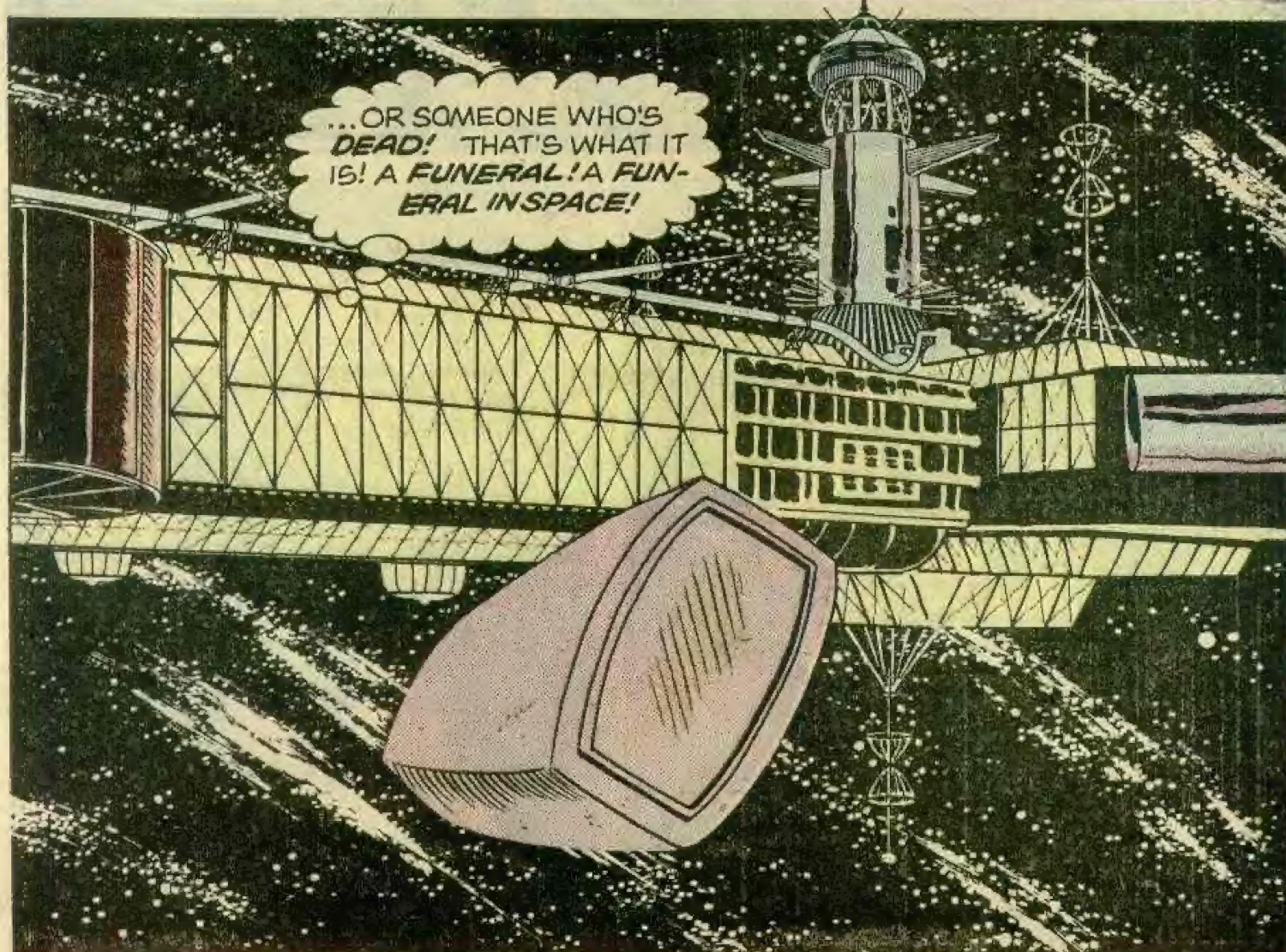


WHILE BOOTH CONSIDERS THE PUZZLE OF THE
LIMPING ROBOT, HOLLAND HAS COME UPON A GROUP
OF HUMANOIDS INVOLVED IN A STRANGE RITUAL...

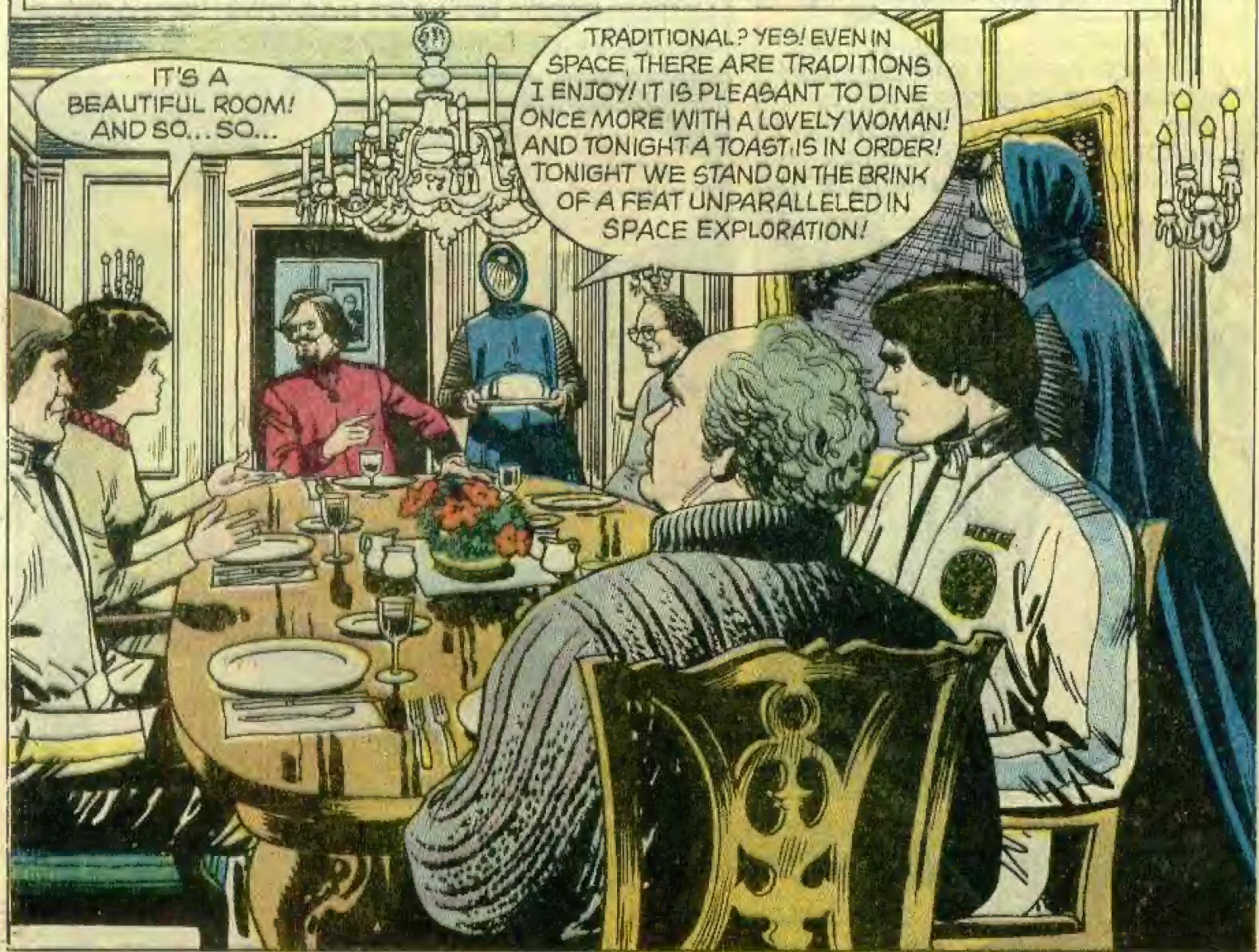
THAT'S ODD! THEY'RE ALL
ROBOTS! BUT THEY LOOK AS IF
THEY'RE HANDLING SOMEONE
WHO IS VERY ILL OR...OR...



...OR SOMEONE WHO'S
DEAD! THAT'S WHAT IT
IS! A **FUNERAL!** A **FUN-**
ERAL IN SPACE!



SEVERAL HOURS LATER, WHEN THE REPAIRS TO THE OXYGEN LINES OF THE PALOMINO ARE WELL ALONG, THE VISITORS ACCEPT HANS REINHARDT'S INVITATION TO DINNER...



IT'S A
BEAUTIFUL ROOM!
AND SO... SO...

TRADITIONAL? YES! EVEN IN
SPACE, THERE ARE TRADITIONS
I ENJOY! IT IS PLEASANT TO DINE
ONCE MORE WITH A LOVELY WOMAN!
AND TONIGHT A TOAST IS IN ORDER!
TONIGHT WE STAND ON THE BRINK
OF A FEAT UNPARALLELED IN
SPACE EXPLORATION!



SEE THAT PROBE
SHIP? IT'S RETURNING TO
THE CYGNUS WITH DATA WHICH
SHOULD MATCH MY COMPUTER-
IZED CALCULATIONS! IF THEY DO,
I WILL TRAVEL WHERE NO MAN
HAS EVER DARED TO GO...IN-
TO THE BLACK HOLE AND
BEYOND!



BEYOND THE
BLACK HOLE? BUT
THE SCIENTIFIC COM-
MUNITY SAYS THERE'S
NOTHING ON THE
OTHER SIDE!

THE SCIENTI-
FIC COMMUNITY, MY
DEAR, ONCE BELIEVED
THE WORLD WAS
FLAT!

BUT... BUT
EVEN WITH THE ANTI-
GRAVITY FORCE YOU'VE
DEVELOPED, WON'T THE
CYGNUS BE
CRUSHED?



AND WHAT ABOUT THE
INTOLERABLE *HEAT* IN
THE BLACK HOLE?



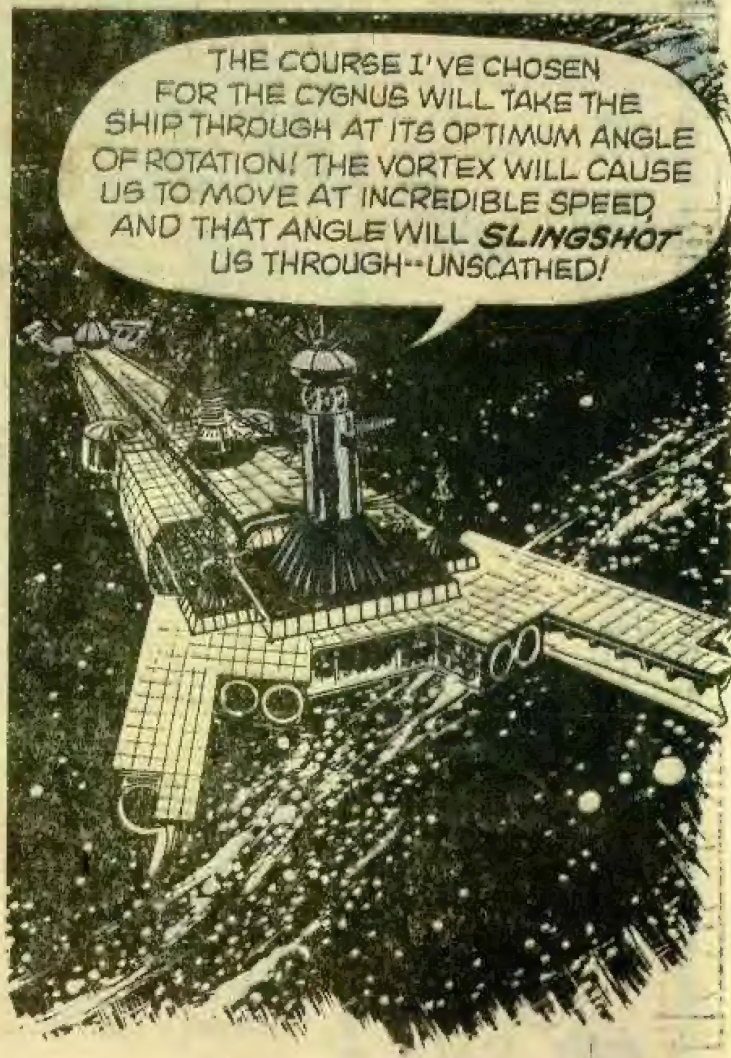
DO YOU
MEAN TO SAY YOU'VE AL-
READY SENT THAT PROBE
SHIP *THROUGH* THE
BLACK HOLE?

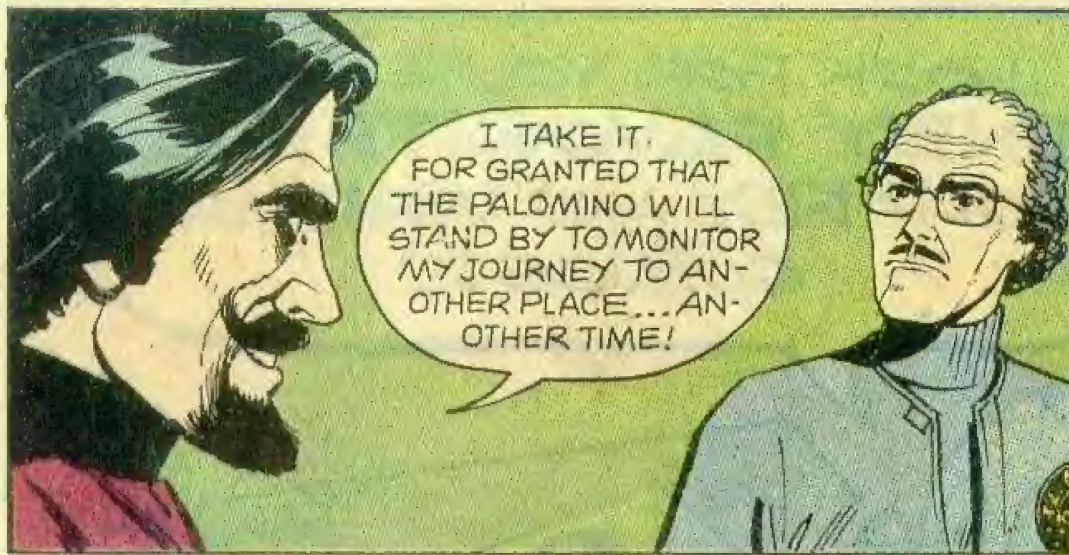


OH, NO! THE PROBE SHIP
HAS GONE ONLY TO THE EVENT
HORIZON! WITHOUT THE ANTI-GRAV-
ITY FORCE FIELD THAT PROTECTS
THE CYGNUS, IT MIGHT BE CRUSHED
IN THE BLACK HOLE!



THE COURSE I'VE CHOSEN
FOR THE CYGNUS WILL TAKE THE
SHIP THROUGH AT ITS OPTIMUM ANGLE
OF ROTATION! THE VORTEX WILL CAUSE
US TO MOVE AT INCREDIBLE SPEED,
AND THAT ANGLE WILL *SLINGSHOT*
US THROUGH--UNSCATHED!



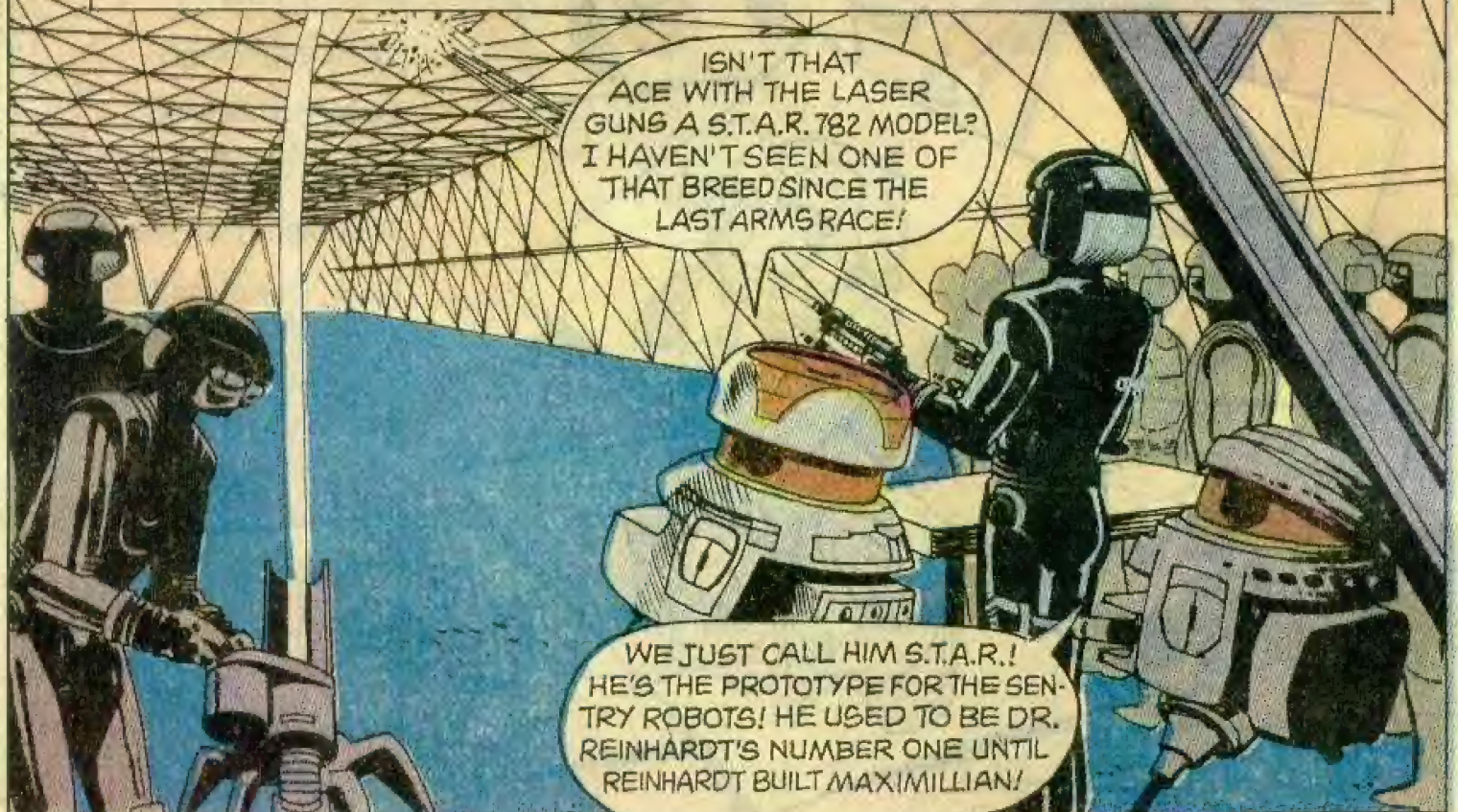


JUST THEN MAXIMILLIAN APPEARS AND...

AH! THE PROBE SHIP HAS DOCKED! PLEASE CONTINUE YOUR MEAL WITHOUT ME!



WHILE HANS REINHARDT HAS BEEN ASTOUNDING HIS HUMAN GUESTS IN THE DINING AREA OF THE CYGNUS, V.I.N.CENT, HAS DRIFTED INTO A RECREATION HALL WHERE OFF-DUTY ROBOTS ENTERTAIN THEMSELVES. THERE HE FINDS OLD B.O.B., THE BATTERED ROBOT WHO USUALLY CARES FOR THE PARTS STORAGE ROOM...



S.T.A.R.! JUST A SECOND! V.I.N.-CENT.'S MY NAME, AND SHARPSHOOTING'S MY GAME! CARE TO TRY ME?

HE DID, EH? HM!

S.T.A.R.'S GOT A CIRCUIT WEAKNESS! I USED TO SHOOT CIRCLES AROUND HIM... ONLY HE FINALLY BLEW A FUSE! HE DID THINGS TO ME THAT I DON'T LIKE TO THINK ABOUT!

WITH THE OTHERS WATCHING, THE SURLY ROBOT CANNOT AVOID THE ENCOUNTER! IN NO TIME V.I.N.CENT. SEEMS A SURE WINNER...

S.T.A.R. 70
V.I.N.CENT. 120

UNTIL S.T.A.R. TRIES THE DIRTY TRICK THAT V.I.N.CENT. HAS BEEN EXPECTING...

AHA! SO THAT'S THE WAY YOU PLAY, HUH? ALL RIGHT!

V.I.N.CENT. SPINS AND FIRES! HIS LASER BEAM RICOCHETS UNTIL IT ZAPS OFF S.T.A.R.'S CHEST AND SENDS HIS SHARPSHOOTER'S MEDAL FLYING.

V.I.N.CENT. AND OLD B.O.B. FLEE AND TAKE REFUGE IN AN AREA OF THE CYGNUS WHICH V.I.N.CENT. HAS NOT SEEN BEFORE...

V.I.N.CENT, THERE'S SOMETHING YOU'D BETTER KNOW ABOUT THIS SHIP! YOUR FRIENDS COULD BE IN **TER-RIBLE DANGER!**

THE DEFEAT AND HUMILIATION ARE TOO MUCH FOR S.T.A.R.! HIS CIRCUITS OVERHEAT. SMOKE SEEPS FROM HIS JOINTS...

NEXT ISSUE—THE THRILLING CONCLUSION!



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THE BLACK HOLE

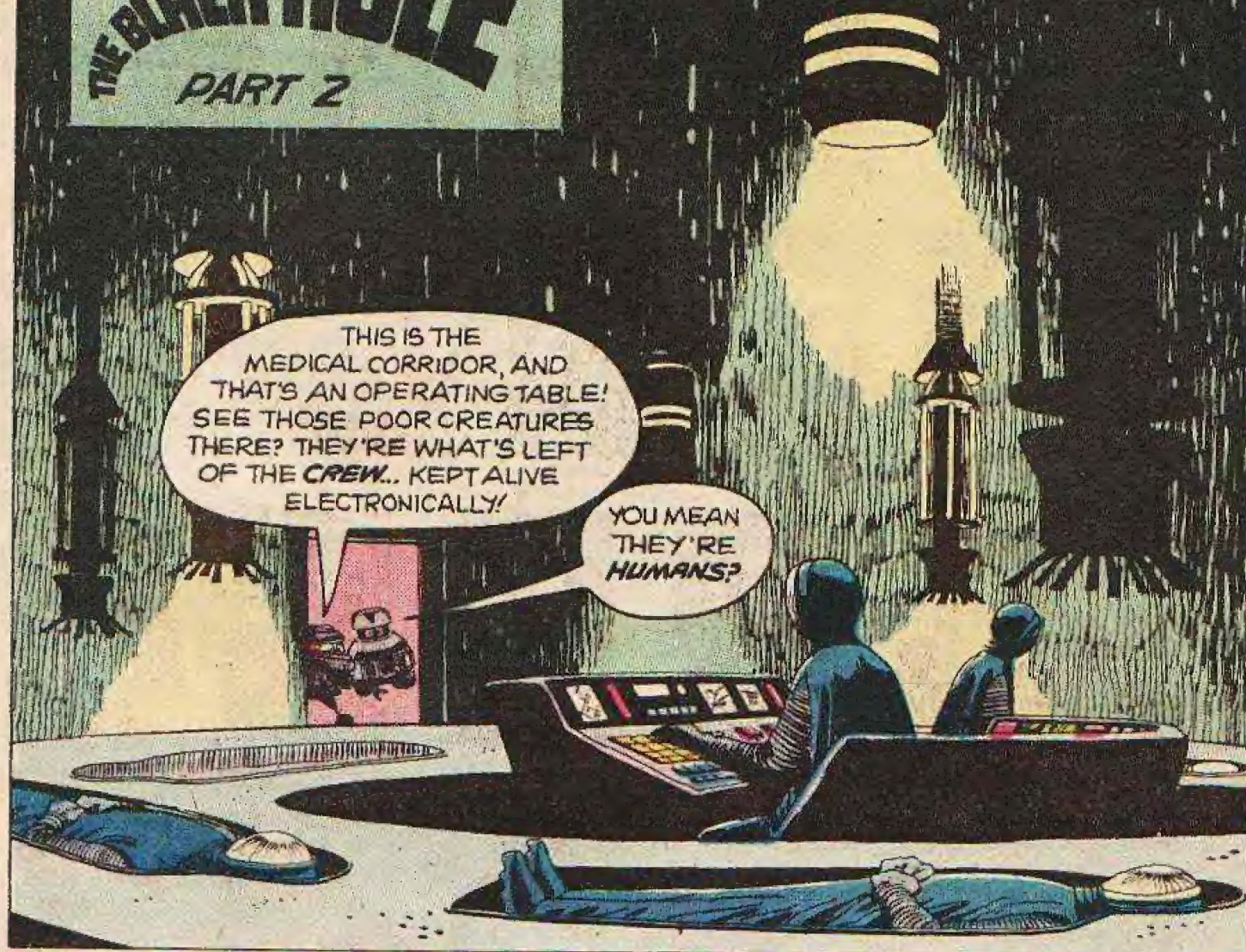
The
Conclusion
of the
Movie -

Into the
awesome void
where space
and time
collide!



THE BLACK HOLE

PART 2



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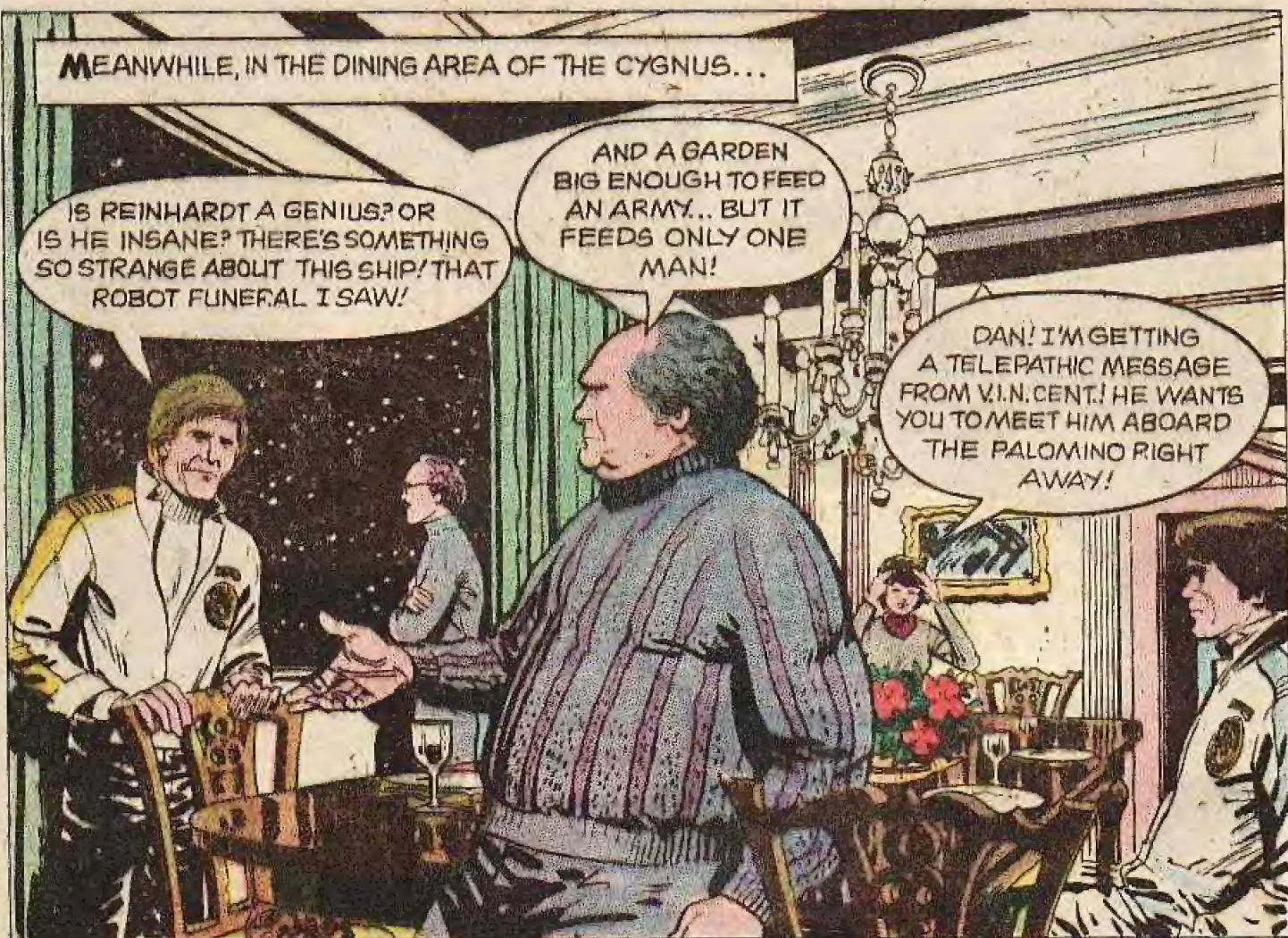
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MEANWHILE, IN THE DINING AREA OF THE CYGNUS...

IS REINHARDT A GENIUS? OR IS HE INSANE? THERE'S SOMETHING SO STRANGE ABOUT THIS SHIP! THAT ROBOT FUNERAL I SAW!

AND A GARDEN BIG ENOUGH TO FEED AN ARMY... BUT IT FEEDS ONLY ONE MAN!

DAN! I'M GETTING A TELEPATHIC MESSAGE FROM V.I.N.CENT! HE WANTS YOU TO MEET HIM ABOARD THE PALOMINO RIGHT AWAY!



HOLLAND HURRIES TO RESPOND TO V.I.N.CENT.'S SUMMONS, TAKING PIZER AND BOOTH WITH HIM. WHEN REINHARDT RETURNS TO THE DINING ROOM, ONLY KATE AND DURANT ARE WAITING, WATCHING THE BLACK HOLE...

CALLED BACK TO OUR SHIP. V.I.N.-CENT. SENT A MESSAGE... BY TELEPATHY! SOME PROBLEM WITH THE PALOMINO, I SUPPOSE!

WHERE ARE THE OTHERS?



DR. REINHARDT, JUST WHAT DO YOU EXPECT TO FIND IN THE BLACK HOLE?

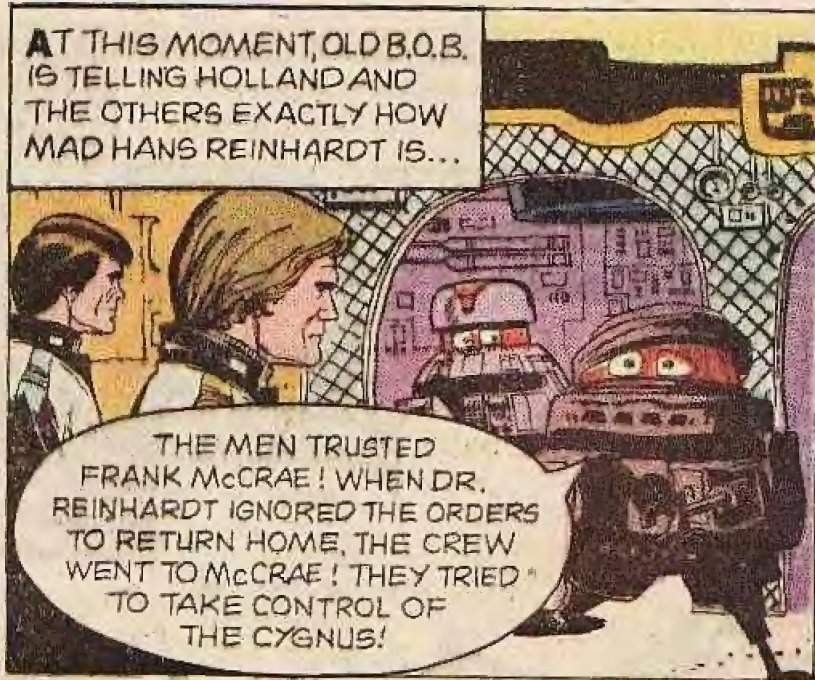
NOT IN IT, MY DEAR! BEYOND IT! A NEW BEGINNING! A UNIVERSE SUSPENDED IN TIME... WHERE THE LAWS OF NATURE DO NOT APPLY!





...AND WHERE LIFE GOES ON FOREVER! NO POSSIBILITY OF DEATH! DOESN'T THAT INTRIGUE YOU?

HE IS MAD!



AT THIS MOMENT, OLD B.O.B. IS TELLING HOLLAND AND THE OTHERS EXACTLY HOW MAD HANS REINHARDT IS...

THE MEN TRUSTED FRANK McCRAE! WHEN DR. REINHARDT IGNORED THE ORDERS TO RETURN HOME, THE CREW WENT TO McCRAE! THEY TRIED TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE CYGNUS!



REINHARDT CALLED IT **MUTINY** AND TURNED THE SENTRY ROBOTS ON THEM! HE KILLED McCRAE! THE CREW ARE STILL ON BOARD AS ROBOTS! HUMANOID ROBOTS WITH NO WILLS! THEY'RE **THINGS** REINHARDT CAN COMMAND!

YOU MEAN THOSE CREATURES IN THE CONTROL TOWERS ARE HUMANS? THAT EXPLAINS THE FUNERAL!

AND THE HUGE GARDEN! AND THE GARDENER WHO LIMPS!

WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE! BUT... BUT WE CAN'T JUST TAKE OFF AND LEAVE THOSE POOR DEVILS BEHIND! WE'LL HAVE TO TRY TO CAPTURE THE CYGNUS!



CAPTAIN HOLLAND, YOU WOULD NOT BE DOING THEM A FAVOR! THE DAMAGE CANNOT BE REVERSED! DEATH IS THEIR RELEASE!

I SEE! ALL RIGHT, CHARLIE, YOU START THE COUNTDOWN! V.I.N. CENT, SEND A MESSAGE TO KATE! TELL HER TO BRING ALEX AND GET BACK HERE ON THE DOUBLE!

BUT KATE AND DURANT ARE ALREADY IN THE COMMAND TOWER OF THE CYGNUS...

A VOYAGE THROUGH THE BLACK HOLE! WHAT AN INCREDIBLE ADVENTURE! DR. REINHARDT, IF I COULD...

WAIT, ALEX! DAN WANTS US BACK ON BOARD! THE PALOMINO'S BLASTING OFF!

V.I.N. CENT., TELL KATE TO GET BACK HERE FAST-- WITH OR WITHOUT ALEX! TELL HER WHY!

V.I.N. CENT. CONCENTRATES AND SENDS THE TERRIBLE MESSAGE TO KATE! BUT ALMOST BEFORE HE FINISHES, POWER BEGINS TO PULSE THROUGH THE GREAT HULK OF THE CYGNUS! THE MEN ON THE PALOMINO FEEL THE VIBRATION...

H-M-M-M-M

HE'S GOING TO DO IT! HE'LL KILL US ALL IF YOU DON'T GET US OUT OF HERE RIGHT NOW!

IN THE COMMAND TOWER OF THE CYGNUS...

ALEX, WE'VE GOT TO GET BACK! REINHARDT'S A MURDERER! THOSE CREATURES ALL AROUND US-- THE HUMAN-OIDS-- THEY'RE WHAT'S LEFT OF THE CREW!

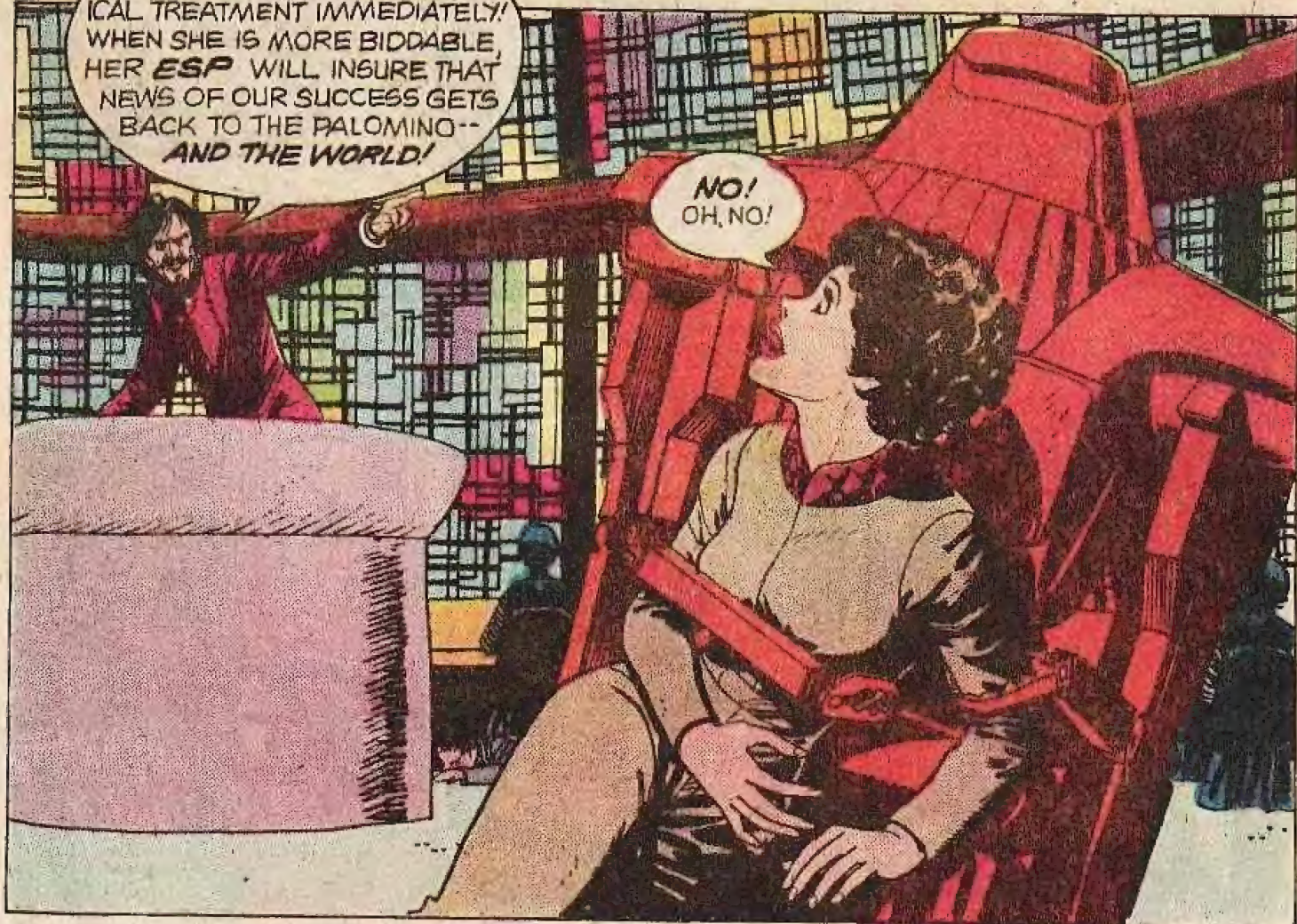
YOU... YOU CAN'T MEAN THAT!


UNBELIEVING, DURANT STEPS TO THE CONSOLE WHERE THE HUMANOIDS WORK, SNAPS OPEN A FACE MASK AND...



MAXIMILLIAN, SEE THAT THE YOUNG LADY RECEIVES PROPER MEDICAL TREATMENT IMMEDIATELY! WHEN SHE IS MORE BIDDABLE, HER *ESP* WILL INSURE THAT NEWS OF OUR SUCCESS GETS BACK TO THE PALOMINO-- AND THE WORLD!

BUT HANS REINHARDT HAS SEEN, AND SO ALEX DURANT IS SILENCED... FOREVER...





CAPTAIN, I'M
GETTING A MESSAGE! REIN-
HARDT HAS JUST KILLED DR.
DURANT! THEY'RE TAKING DR.
KATE TO THAT HOSPITAL
CORRIDOR!

WE'VE GOT TO
GET KATE OUT! CHARLIE,
YOU AND HARRY STAY ABOARD
THE PALOMINO! IF WE DON'T HAVE
ENOUGH TIME, YOU BLAST OFF
BEFORE THE GRAVITY PULL
GETS TOO STRONG! THAT'S
AN ORDER!

AS HOLLAND AND THE TWO RO-
BOTS BEGIN THEIR DASH FOR
THE HOSPITAL AREA OF THE
CYGNUS, THE GREAT SHIP STARTS
TO TURN TOWARD THE DISTANT
GLOW OF **THE BLACK HOLE...**

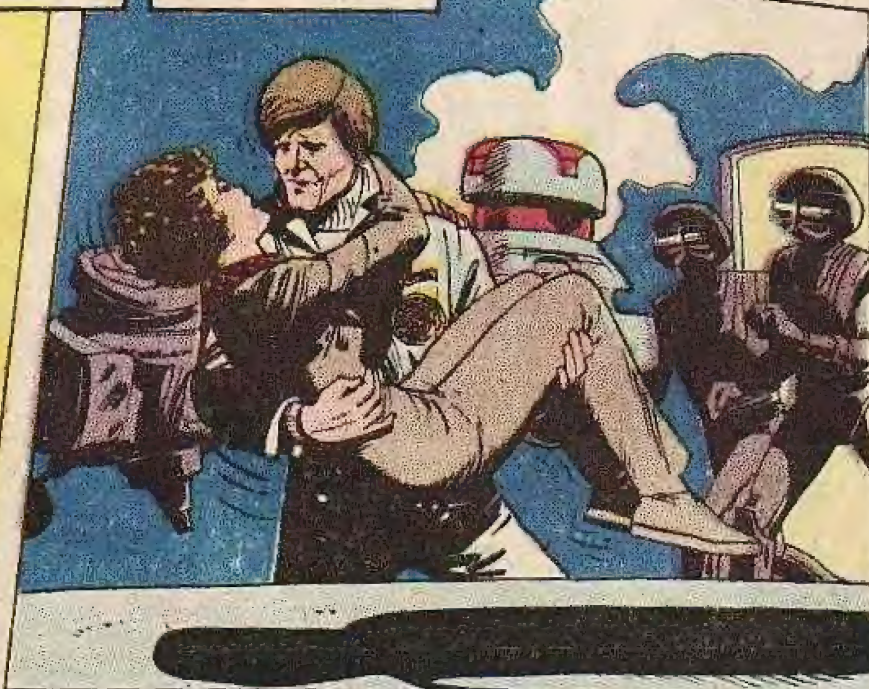
IN THE HOSPITAL, THE HUMANOID SURGEONS PAY NO HEED TO THE CHANGE IN THE SHIP'S ATTITUDE. THEY HAVE THEIR ASSIGNED TASK...

V.I.N. CENT,
HURRY! PLEASE
HURRY!

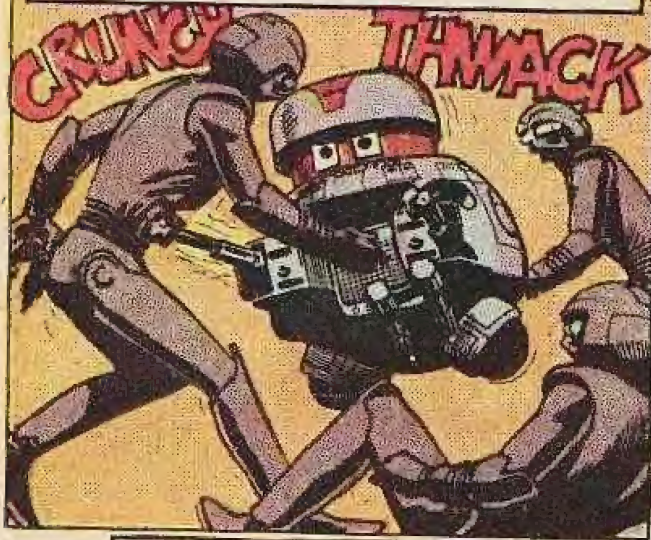
THE OPERATING TABLE
ROTATES SLOWLY TOWARD THE
LASER LIGHTS. SUDDENLY...

THE SURGEONS DO NOT SEEM TO NOTICE
THE DESTRUCTION OF THEIR EQUIPMENT,
BUT THE SENTRY ROBOTS DO. AS HOLLAND
SMASHES THE COMPUTER WHICH CON-
TROLS THE OPERATING MECHANISM...

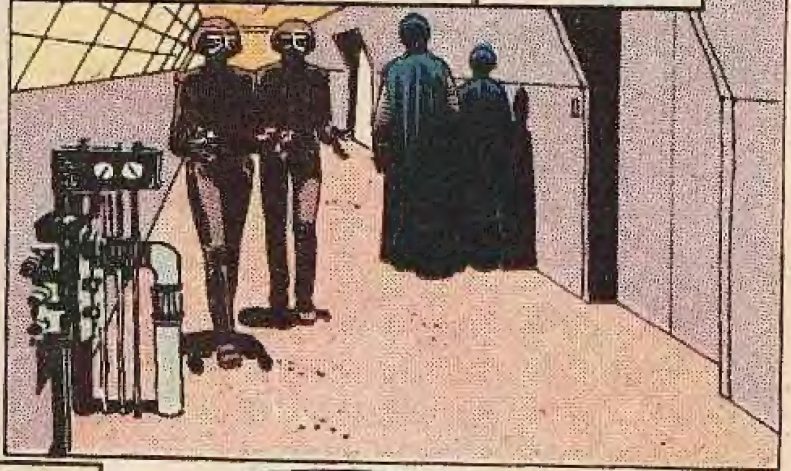
IMMEDIATELY...



V.I.N.CENT. POPS OUT FROM BEHIND
A PIECE OF EQUIPMENT...



A PAIR OF HUMANOID ROBOTS APPEAR IN
THE MEDICAL CORRIDOR A SHORT TIME
LATER. THE SENTRY ROBOTS SEARCHING
THE CORRIDOR PAY NO ATTENTION...



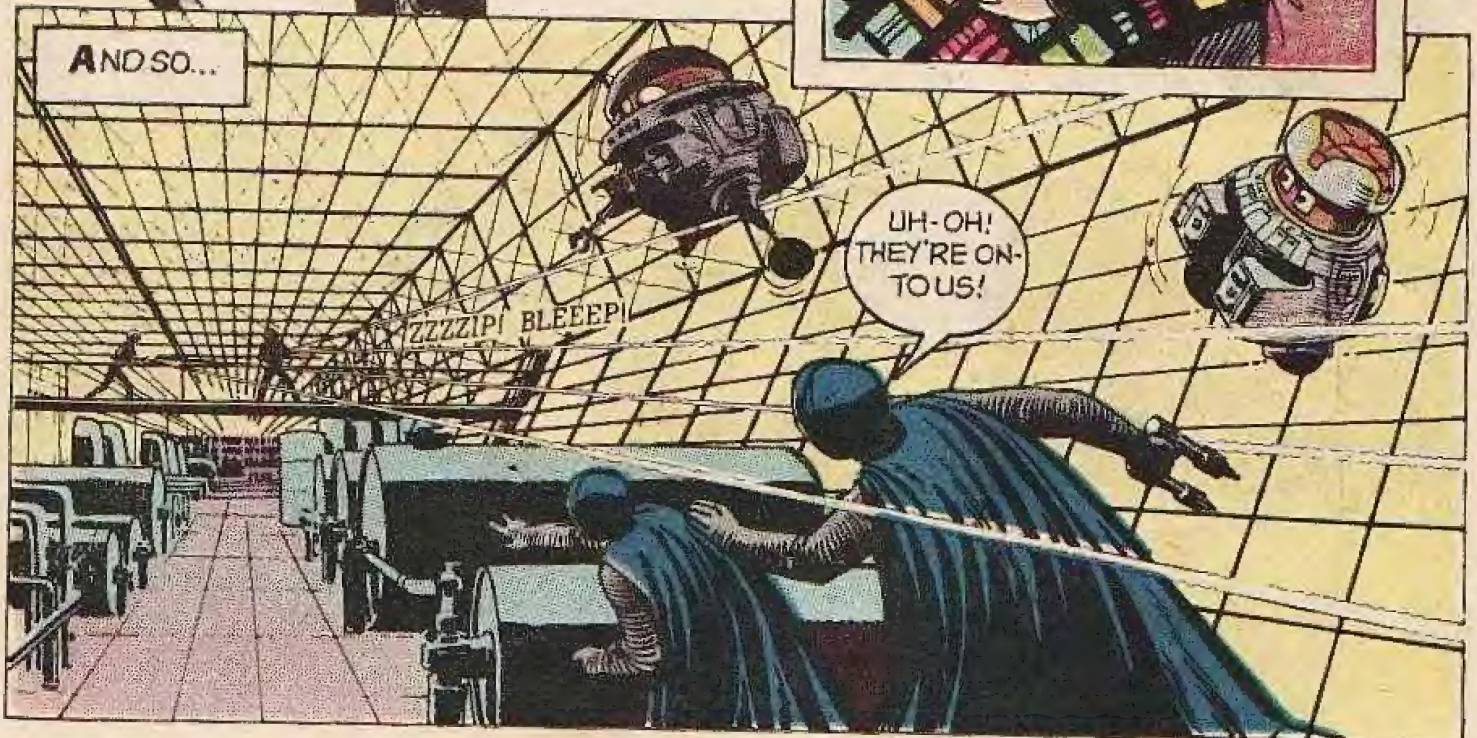
BUT WHEN THE SENTRIES START TO OPEN
THE DOOR OF A PARTICULAR ROOM...



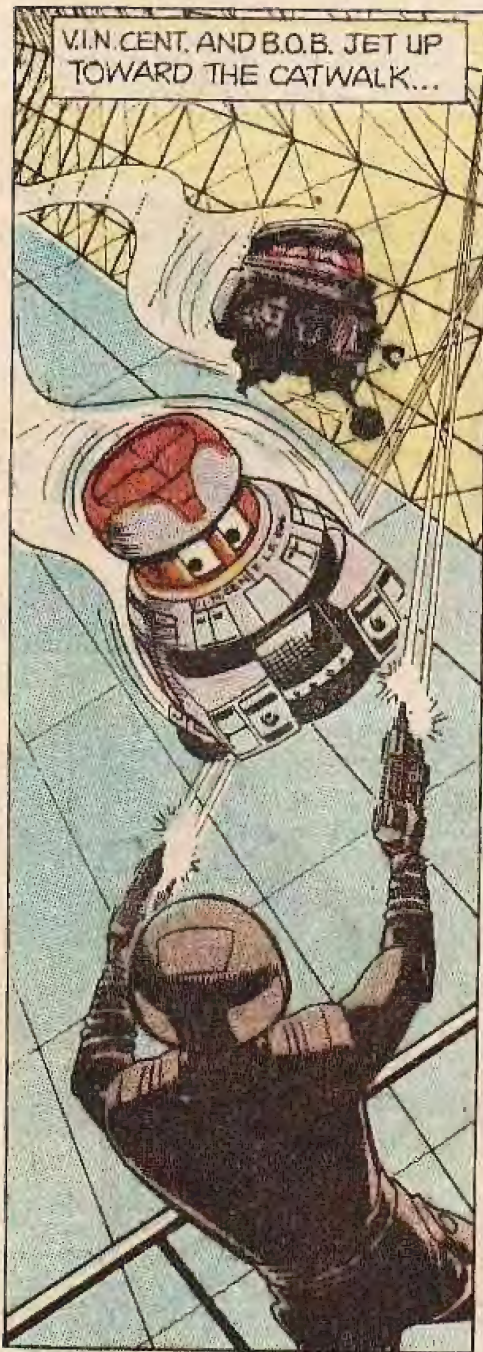
MAXIMILLIAN,
TELL THE SENTRIES
TO FIRE ON ANY
HUMANIDS BETWEEN
MEDICAL AND THE
PALOMINO!



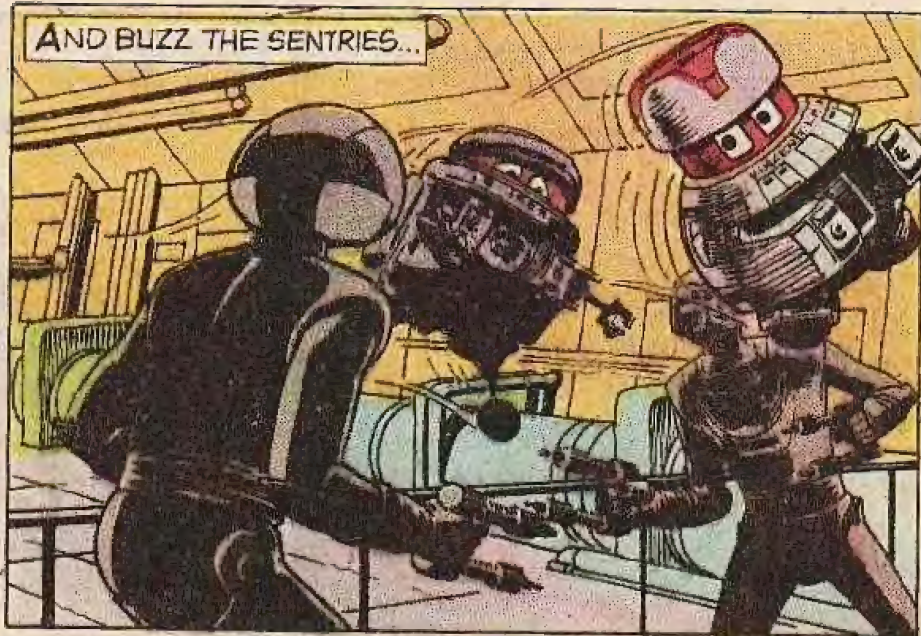
AND SO...



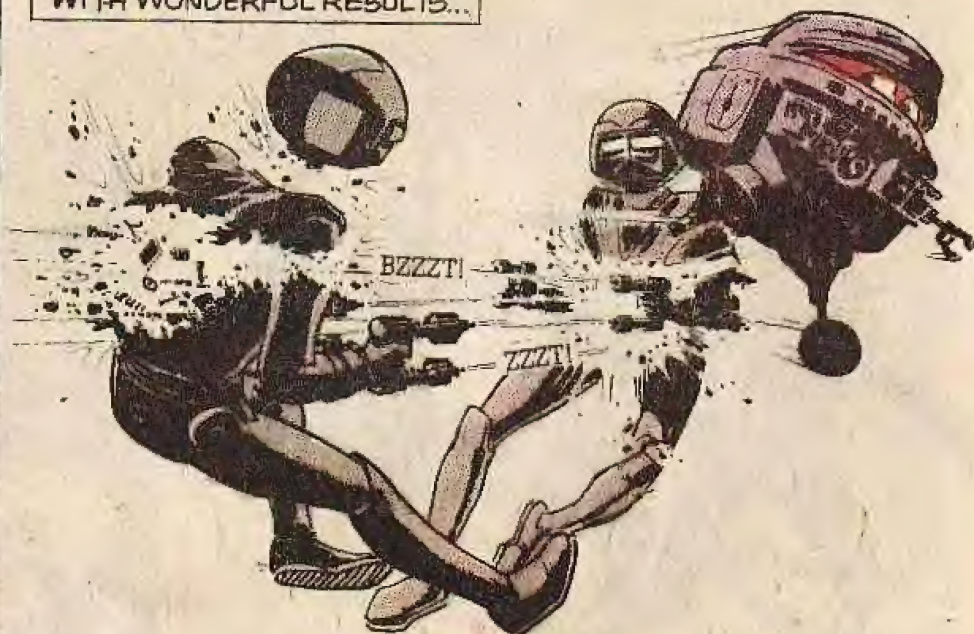
V.I.N. CENT. AND B.O.B. JET UP
TOWARD THE CATWALK...



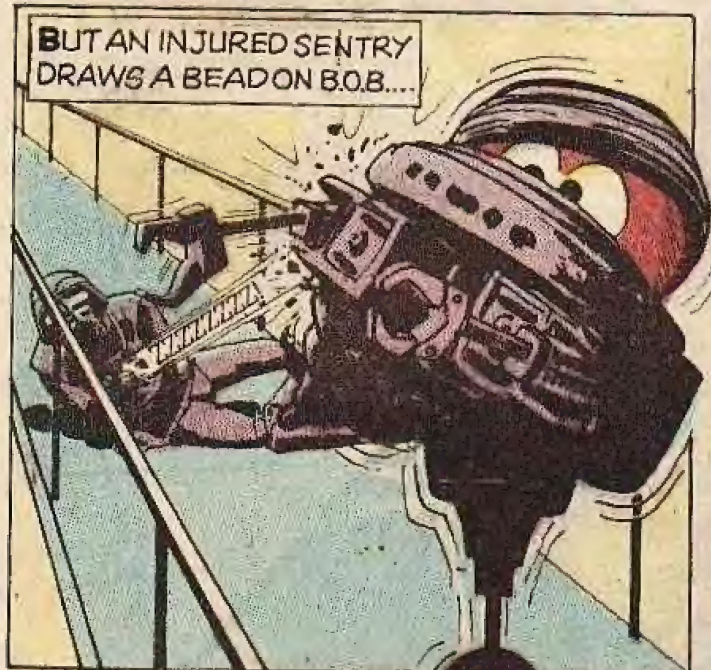
AND BUZZ THE SENTRIES...



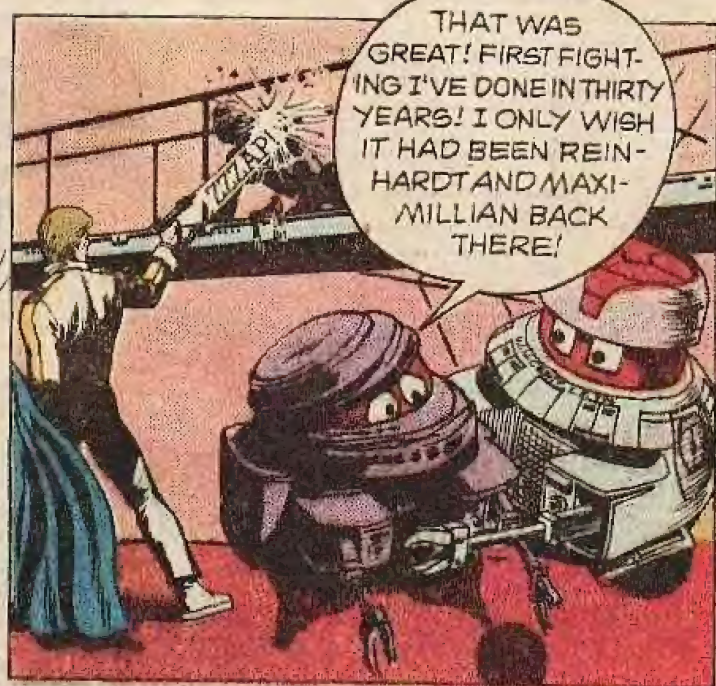
WITH WONDERFUL RESULTS...



BUT AN INJURED SENTRY
DRAWS A BEAD ON B.O.B....



THAT WAS
GREAT! FIRST FIGHT-
ING I'VE DONE IN THIRTY
YEARS! I ONLY WISH
IT HAD BEEN REIN-
HARDT AND MAXI-
MILLIAN BACK
THERE!



HOLLAND, KATE AND THE TWO ROBOTS RACE ON TOWARD THE AIRLOCK. BUT REINHARDT'S SENTRIES HAVE THROWN UP A BARRICADE THERE...

HOLLAND USES HIS COMMUNICATOR TO GIVE A DESPERATE ORDER TO PIZER...

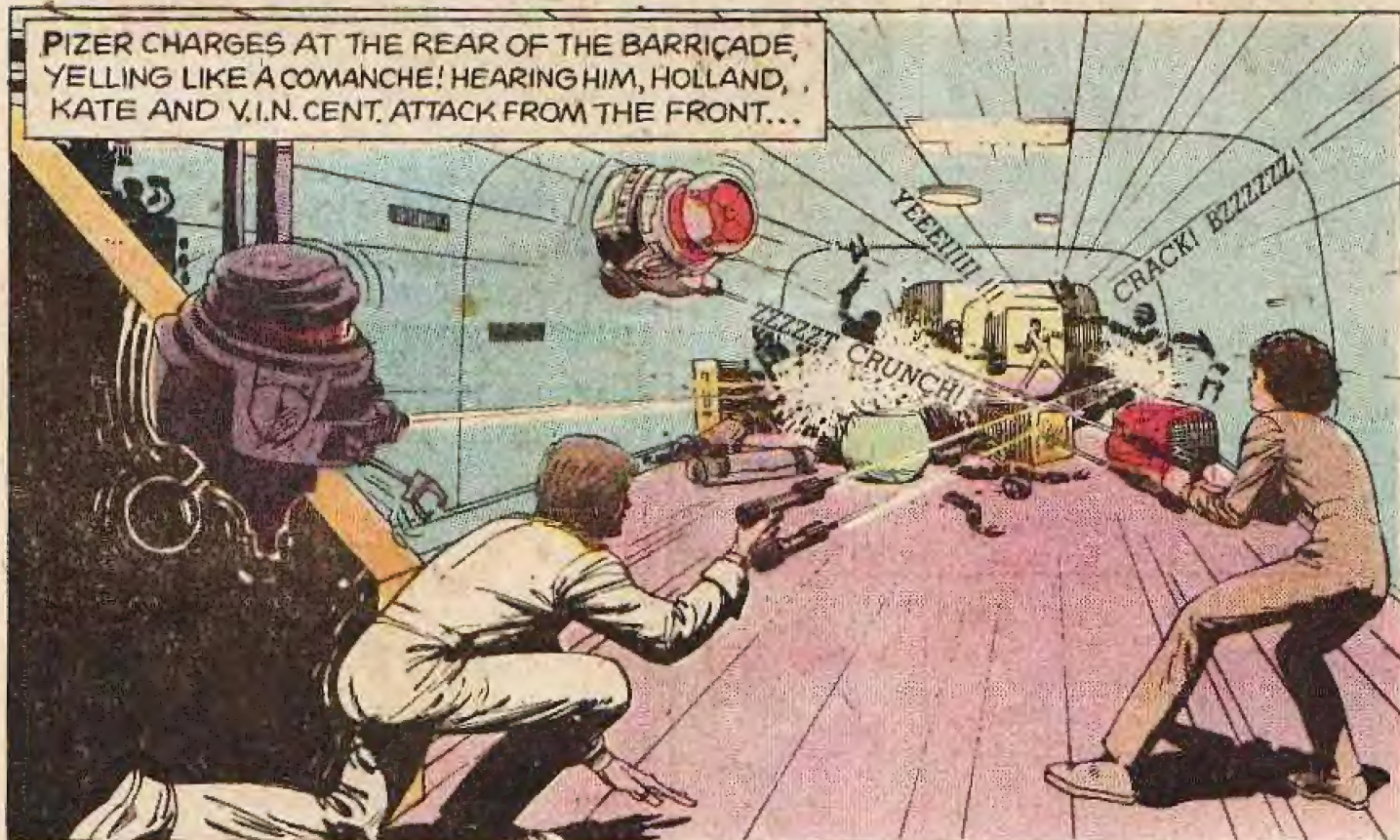
THEY'VE GOT US
PINNED DOWN! THE
RECEPTION AREA'S
BLOCKED OFF!
**TIME'S UP!
BLAST OFF!**

YOU HEARD THE
CAPTAIN! **LET'S GO!**

PIZER DOES GO... ACROSS
THE AIRLOCK TO THE
CYGNUS WHERE...



PIZER CHARGES AT THE REAR OF THE BARRICADE,
YELLING LIKE A COMANCHE! HEARING HIM, HOLLAND,
KATE AND V.I.N. CENT. ATTACK FROM THE FRONT...



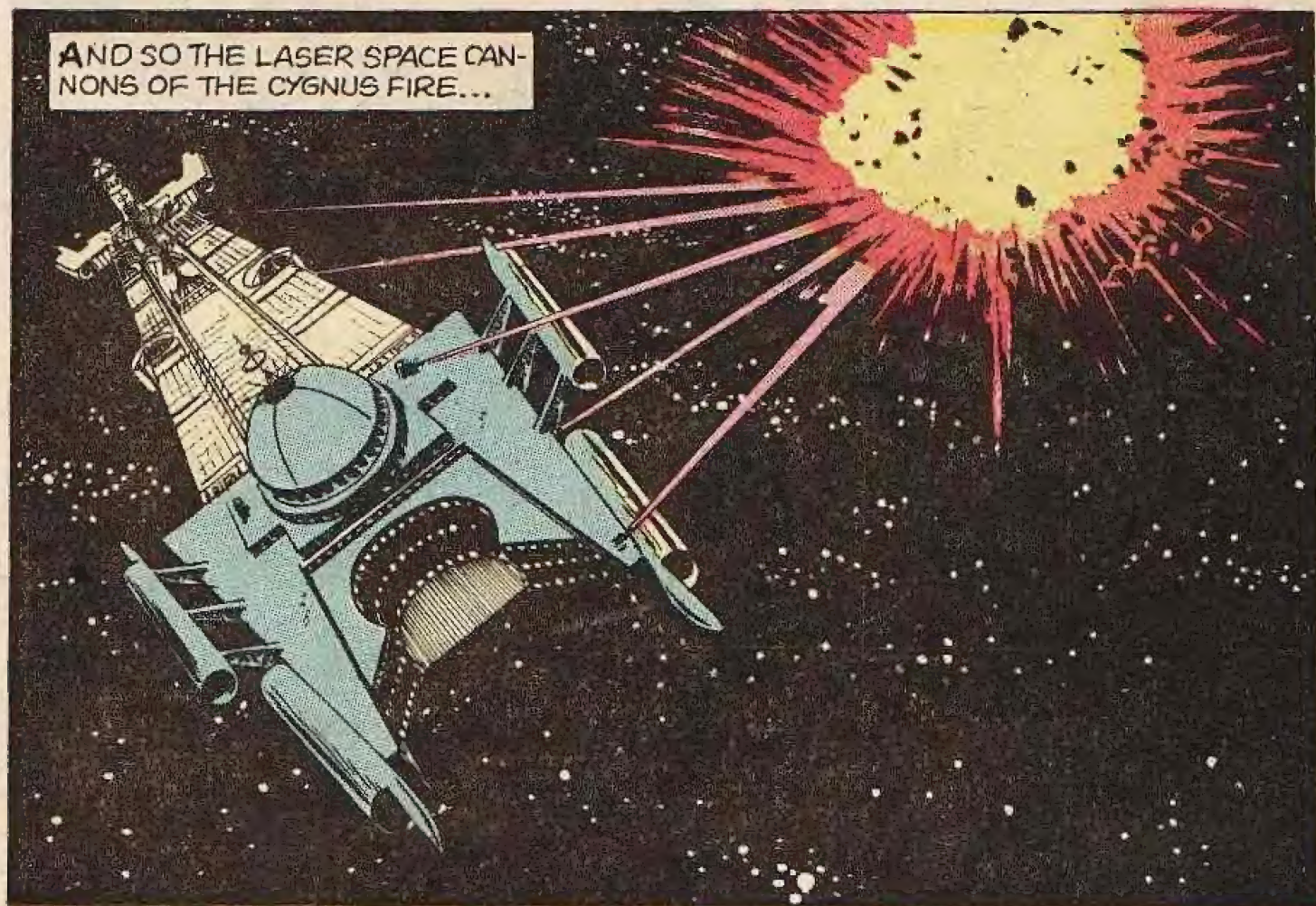
THE ROBOT FORCE IS ROUTED, BUT BEFORE HOLLAND CAN LEAD HIS LITTLE ARMY BACK TO THE PALOMINO...



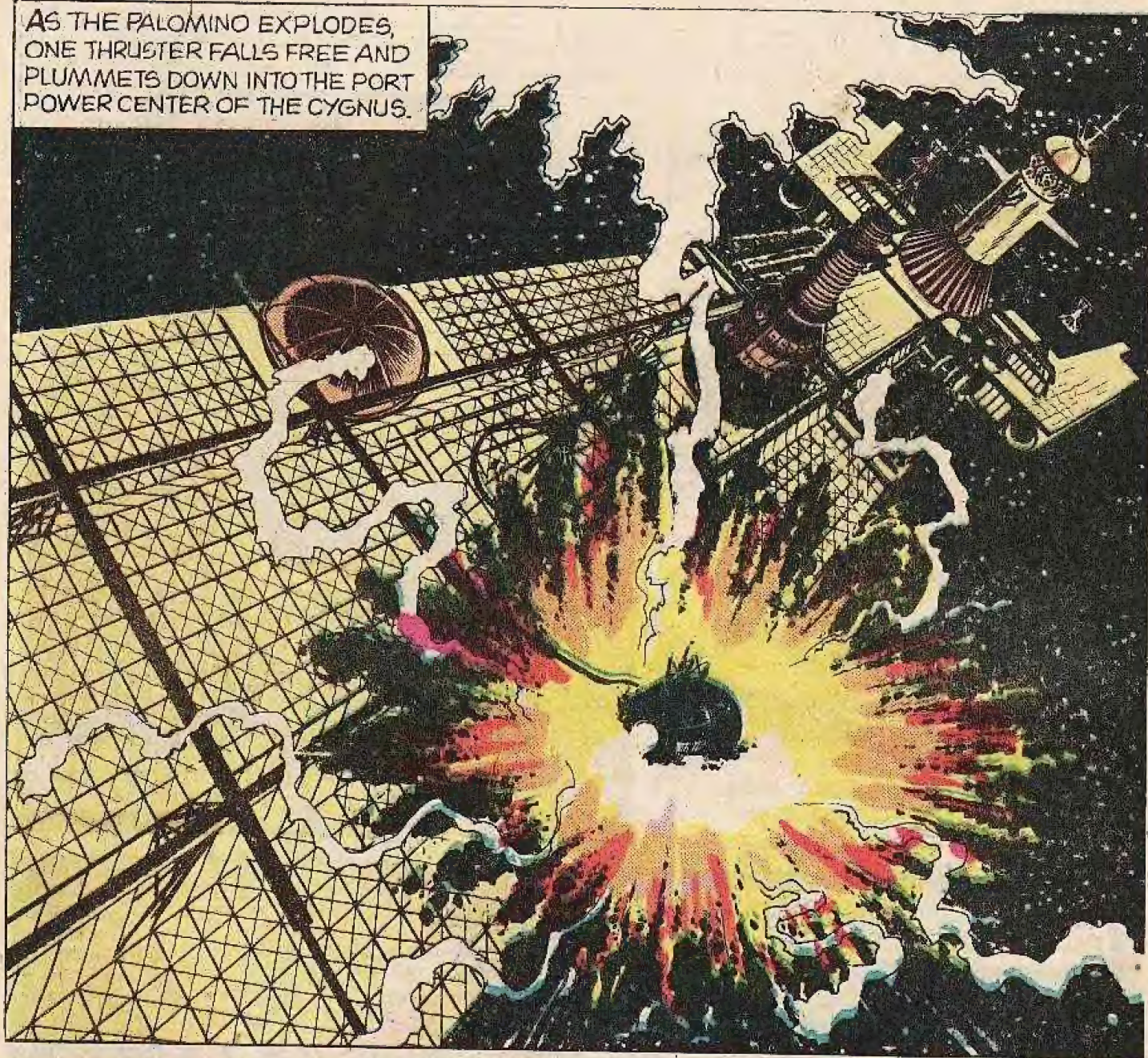
SUDDENLY THE PALOMINOTILTS, THEN VEERS TOWARD THE CYGNUS...



AND SO THE LASER SPACE CANNONS OF THE CYGNUS FIRE...



AS THE PALOMINO EXPLODES,
ONE THRUSTER FALLS FREE AND
PLUMMETS DOWN INTO THE PORT
POWER CENTER OF THE CYGNUS.



THE CYGNUS RIDES OUT THE BLAST... BUT A NEW DANGER THREATENS...



I KNOW,
KATE! IT'S
HORRIBLE! AND
HARRY'S
DEAD!

WE WILL
BE, TOO, IF WE
GO THROUGH
THE BLACK
HOLE WITH
REINHARDT!

THAT
SHOULDN'T
BE NECESSARY!
THERE IS STILL
THE PROBE SHIP
THAT DR. REIN-
HARDT SENT TO
THE EVENT HORI-
ZON! IF WE
CAN GET TO
THAT...

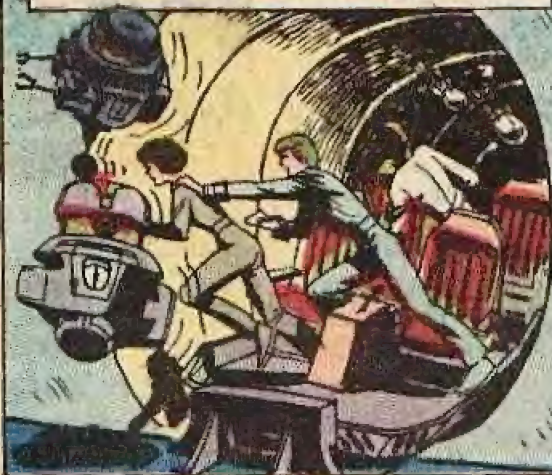


ASTEROIDS
OVERTAKING US!
BRING THE NUMBER
TWO POWER CENTER
UP! DOUBLE THE
ENERGY OUTPUT!
WE'VE GOT TO OUT-
RUN THEM-- OR
RIDE OUT THE
STORM!

BUT THE CYGNUS, WOUNDED BY THE EXPLOSION IN HER POWER CENTER, CANNOT OUTRUN THE STORM. ASTEROIDS BOMBARD THE SHIP...



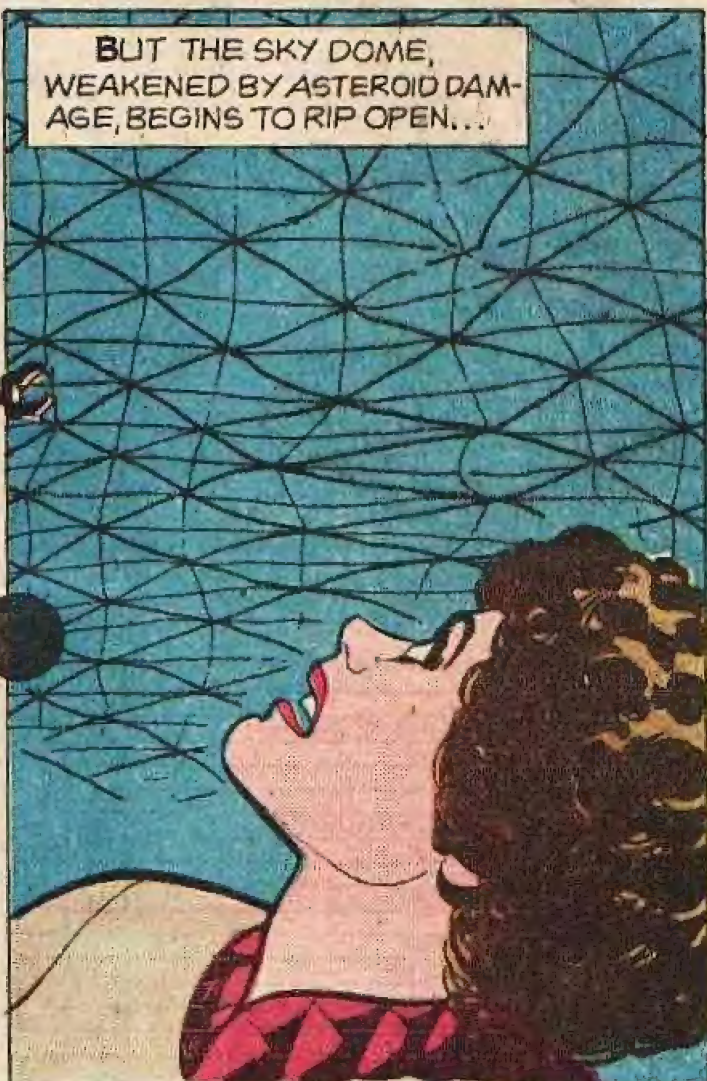
AS THE CREW OF THE PALOMINO SPEED TOWARD THE PROBE SHIP IN AN AIR CAR...



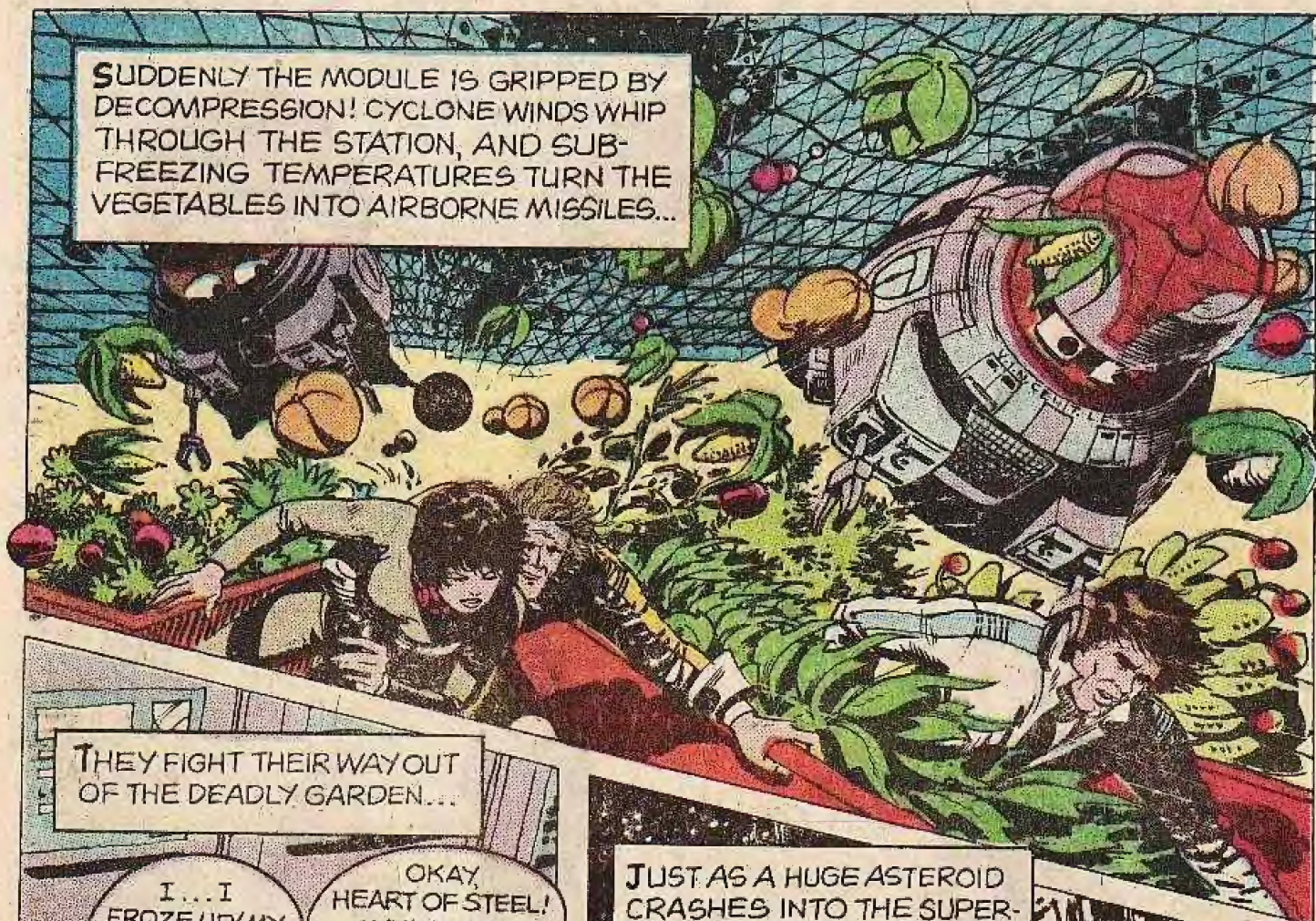
THEY FLEE THROUGH DR. REINHARDT'S SPECIAL GARDEN...



BUT THE SKY DOME, WEAKENED BY ASTEROID DAMAGE, BEGINS TO RIP OPEN...



SUDDENLY THE MODULE IS GRIPPED BY DECOMPRESSION! CYCLONE WINDS WHIP THROUGH THE STATION, AND SUB-FREEZING TEMPERATURES TURN THE VEGETABLES INTO AIRBORNE MISSILES...



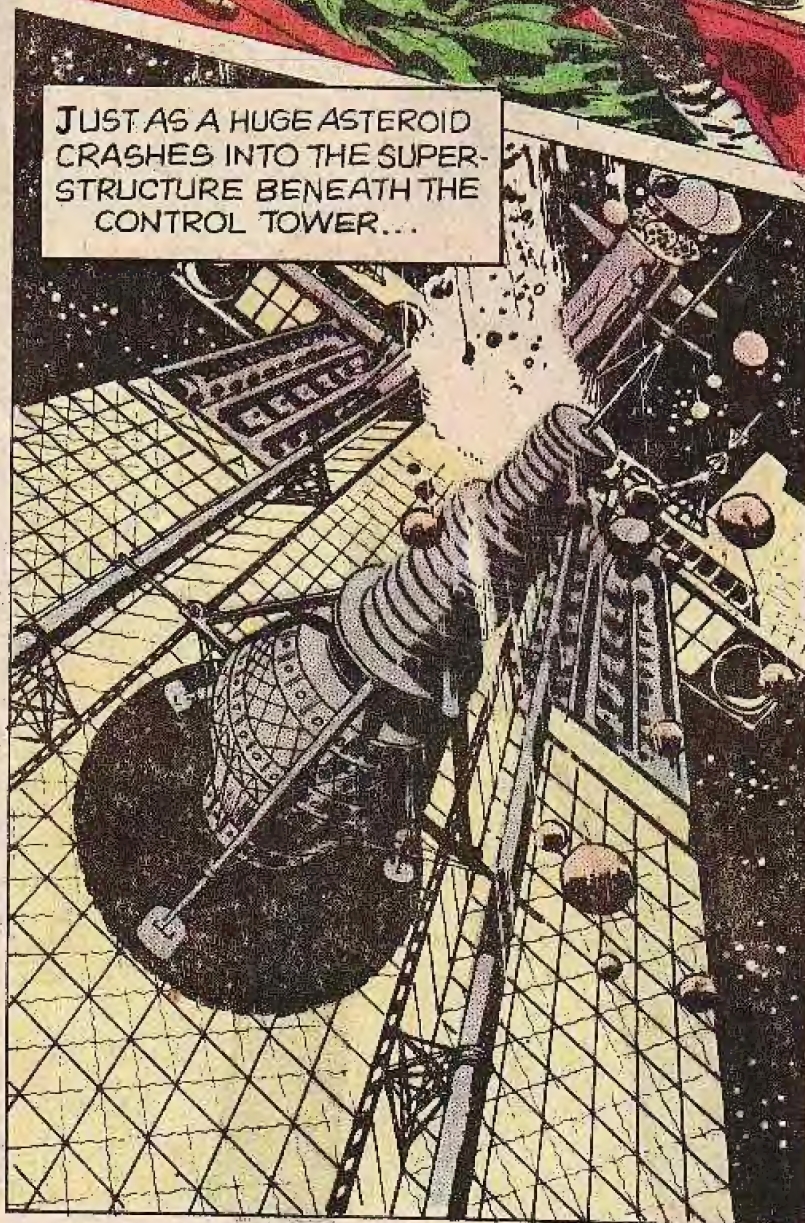
THEY FIGHT THEIR WAY OUT OF THE DEADLY GARDEN...


I... I
FROZE UP! MY
JETS WON'T
WORK!

OKAY,
HEART OF STEEL!
WE'VE GOT
YOU!



JUST AS A HUGE ASTEROID
CRASHES INTO THE SUPER-
STRUCTURE BENEATH THE
CONTROL TOWER...




The background of the page is a large, detailed illustration of a futuristic tower's interior. It is a scene of chaos. In the upper left, a humanoid figure is being crushed by a large red mechanical arm. In the center, a tall, red, multi-jointed robot stands amidst debris. To the right, a man in a dark suit is running. In the lower left, another humanoid is falling. The architecture is complex with many levels, corridors, and mechanical components. The overall tone is one of high-stakes action and disaster.

INSIDE THE TOWER, THE HUMANOIDS AT THE CONSOLES REEL AGAINST ONE ANOTHER. THE WALLS SHUDDER AND SWAY AS REINHARDT SHOUTS A COMMAND...

MAXIMILLIAN!
PROGRAM THE SPACE
PROBE! WE'LL USE
THAT IF WE HAVE TO
ABANDON THE
CYGNUS!

AT LAST THE ASTEROIDS RUSH
ON, DRAWN BY THE UNRELENT-
ING GRAVITY OF THE BLACK
HOLE. IN THE SILENCE THAT
FOLLOWS, THE PALOMINO CREW
STRUGGLE TOWARD THE
PROBE SHIP...

A close-up panel of a woman with dark, curly hair. She has a worried expression, with wide eyes and slightly open mouth. She is wearing a light-colored jacket over a red and black checkered scarf. The background is a solid yellow color.

HURRY,
B.O.B.! GET US
ACROSS! THOSE RE-
ACTORS ARE LEAKING
HYDROGEN!

THE CATWALK HOLDS WHILE KATE FINISHES CROSSING. PIZER FOLLOWS SAFELY, BUT WHEN HOLLAND IS PART WAY OVER...

HOLLAND CRASHES INTO THE WALL ABOVE THE REACTOR, BUT HOLDS FAST TO THE CATWALK. IN AN INSTANT...

ALL RIGHT CAPTAIN! WE'LL GET YOU OUT!

YEEEAH!

IN THE COMMAND TOWER, REINHARDT IS AWARE OF A NEW OMINOUS SOUND AS THE GRAVITY FORCE OF THE BLACK HOLE STRAINS THROUGH HIS SHIP!

IT'S ALL RIGHT, MAXMILLIAN! WE'LL MAKE IT! TO THE WORLD BEYOND! MY WORLD--AND EVERLASTING LIFE!

THANK HEAVENS!

BUT IN THE POWER CENTER, ONE OF THE REACTORS COLLAPSES! THE SHIP SHUDDERS WITH THE IMPACT AS THE EXPLOSION RIPS OUT INTO SPACE...

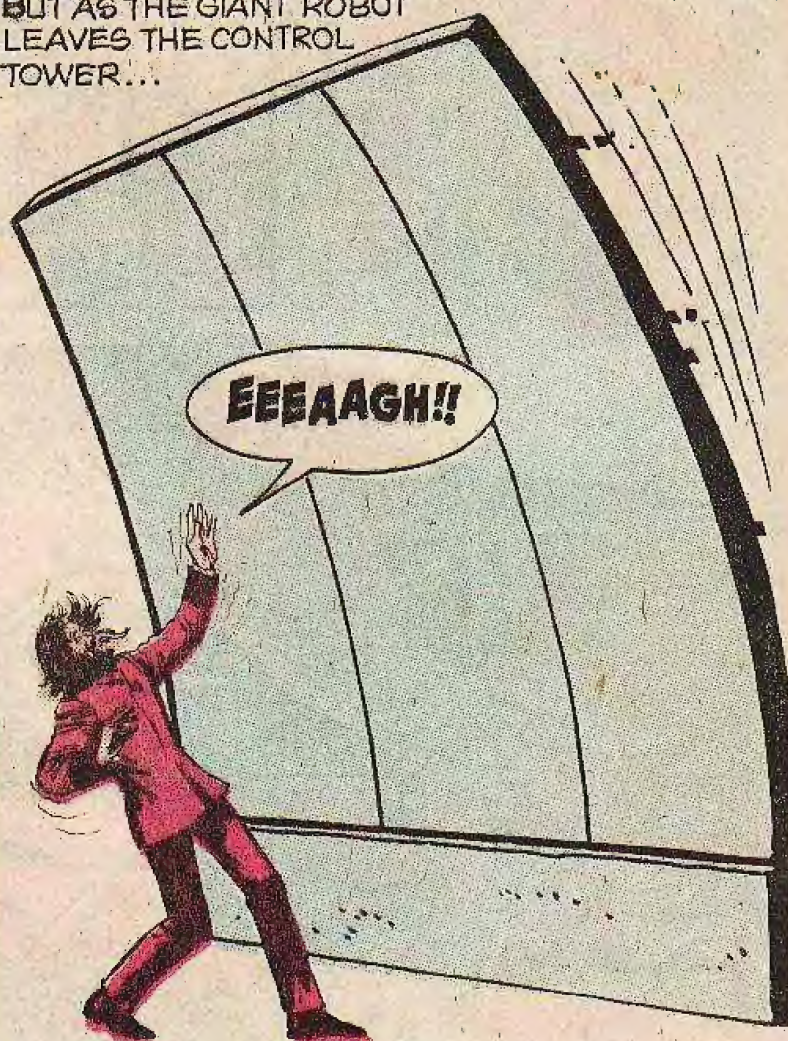


WITHOUT POWER, THE CYGNUS
TUMBLES HELPLESSLY TOWARD
THE BLACK HOLE--CAUGHT BY
THE INCREDIBLE GRAVITY...

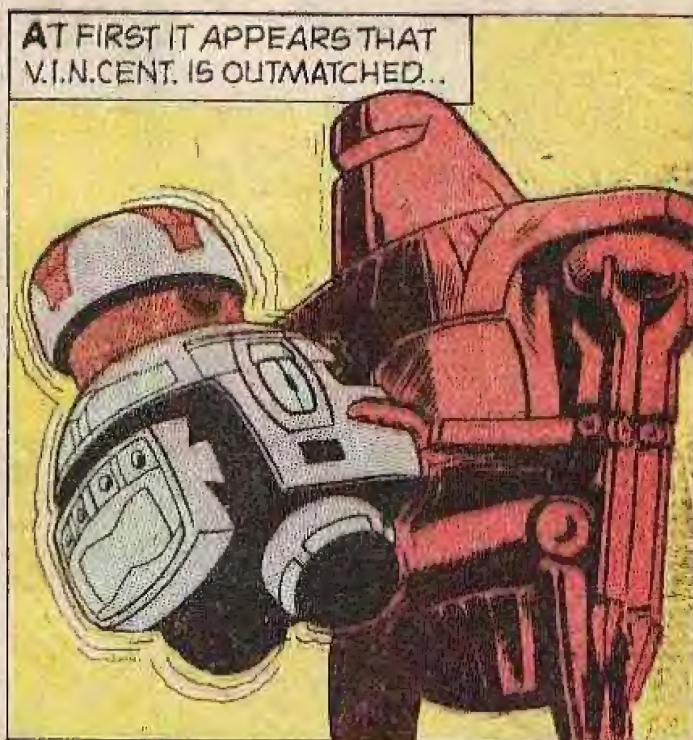
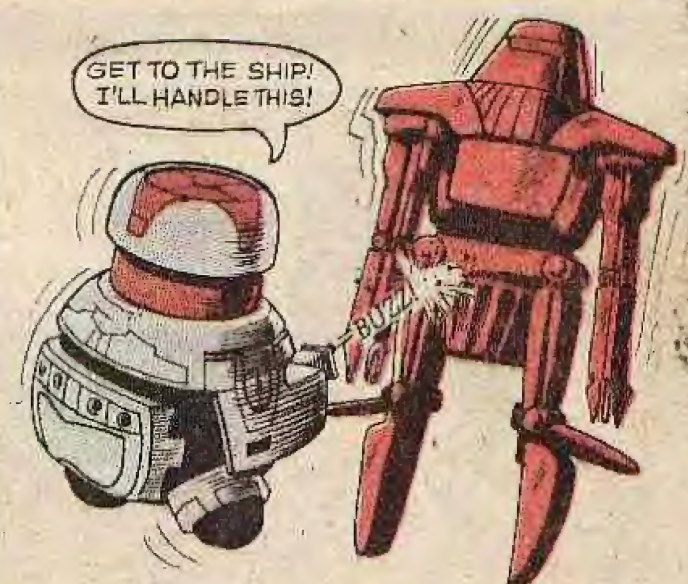


MAXIMILLIAN!
QUICK! PREPARE THE
PROBE SHIP!

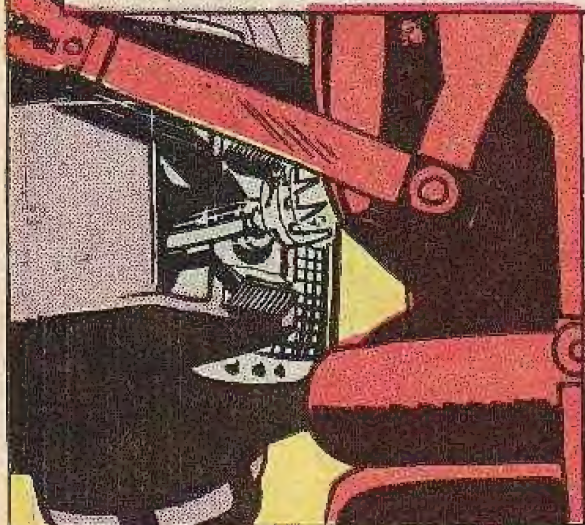
BUT AS THE GIANT ROBOT
LEAVES THE CONTROL
TOWER...



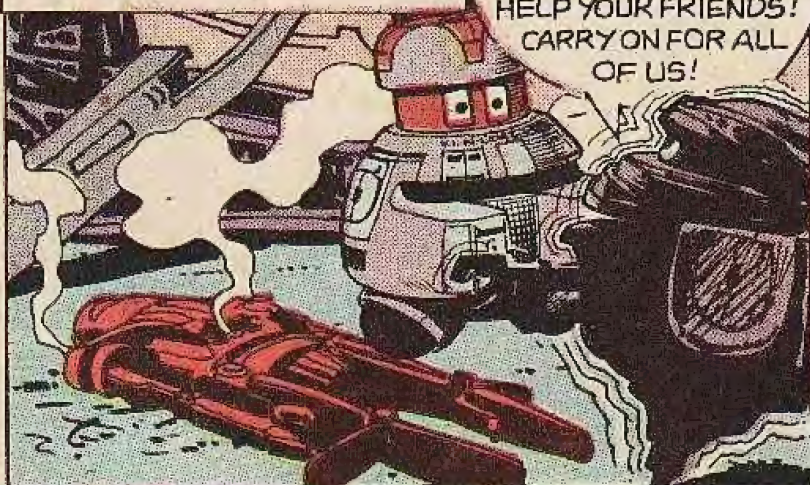
EEEEAAGH!!



BUT THEN A SMALL DOOR OPENS IN V.I.N.CENT'S BODY! A CUTTING TOOL APPEARS AND THRUSTS UPWARD TOWARD MAXIMILLIAN...

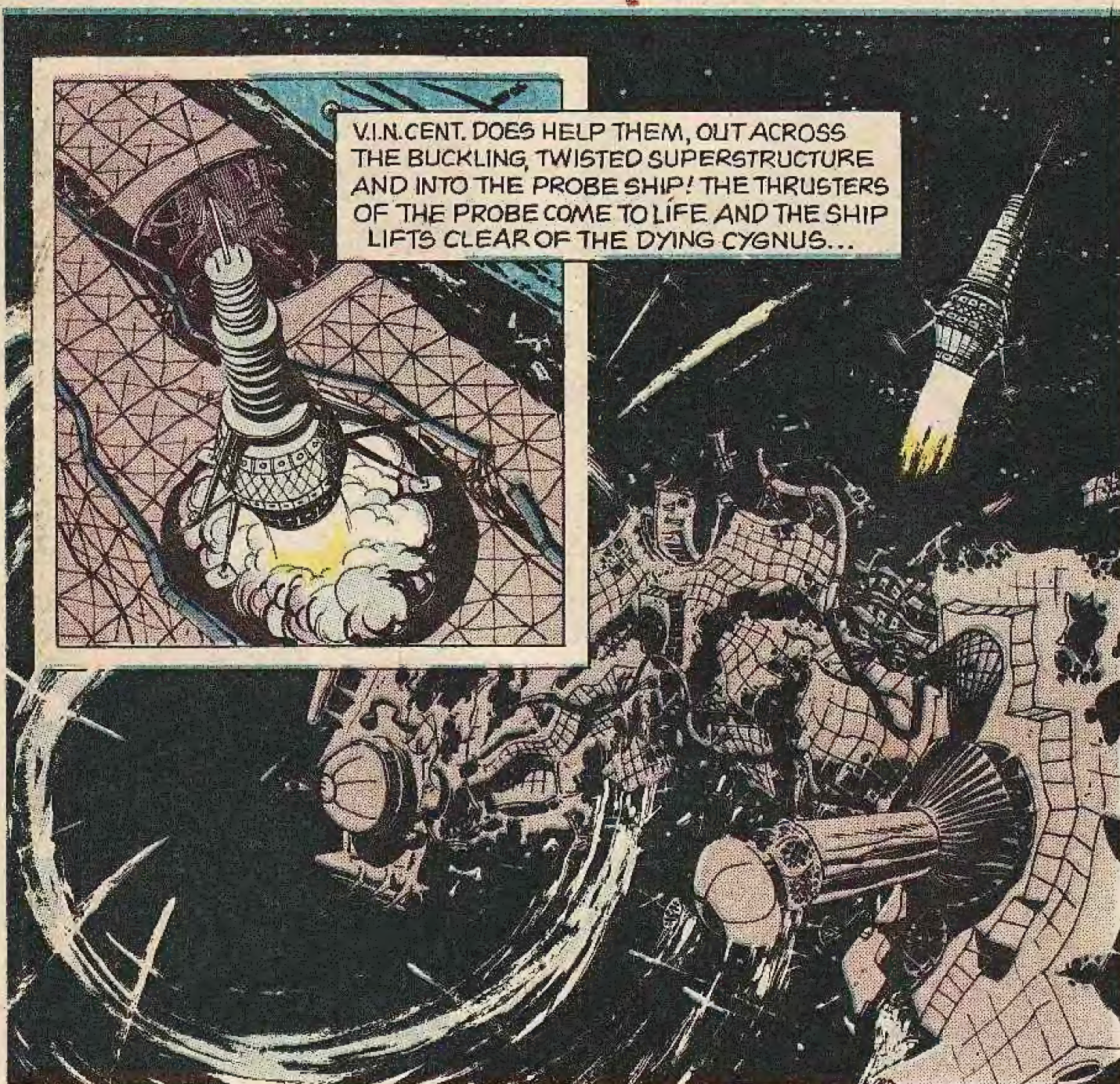


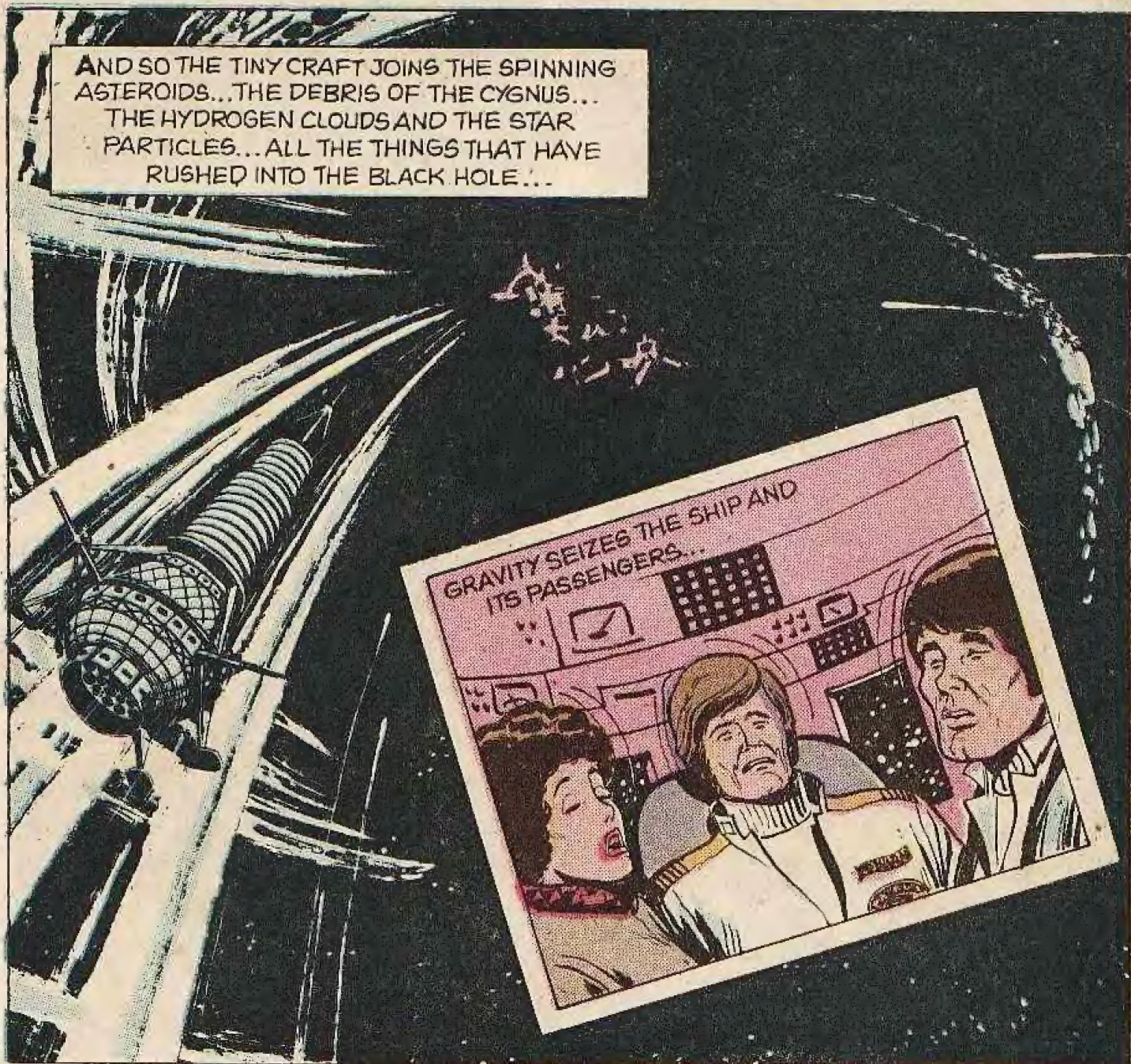
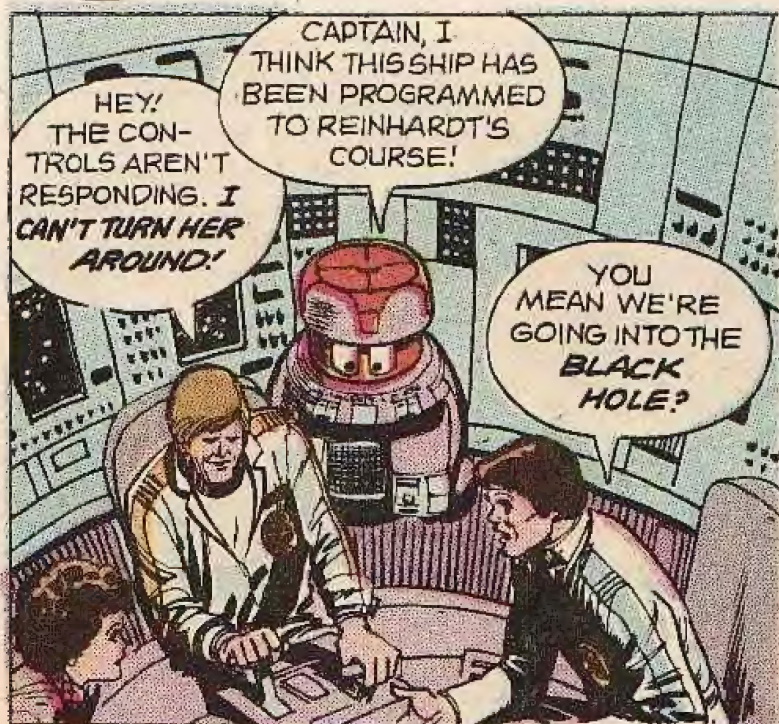
AND IN AN INSTANT THE GIANT ROBOT LIES DEFUSED AND FLAMING, AND V.I.N.CENT. PAUSES TO SAY FAREWELL TO A SPECIAL FRIEND...




I WON'T BE GOING WITH YOU! I'M...I'M DONE FOR-- BUT IT WAS GREAT! HURRY NOW, V.I.N.CENT... HELP YOUR FRIENDS! CARRY ON FOR ALL OF US!


V.I.N.CENT. DOES HELP THEM, OUT ACROSS THE BUCKLING, TWISTED SUPERSTRUCTURE AND INTO THE PROBE SHIP! THE THRUSTERS OF THE PROBE COME TO LIFE AND THE SHIP LIFTS CLEAR OF THE DYING CYGNUS...





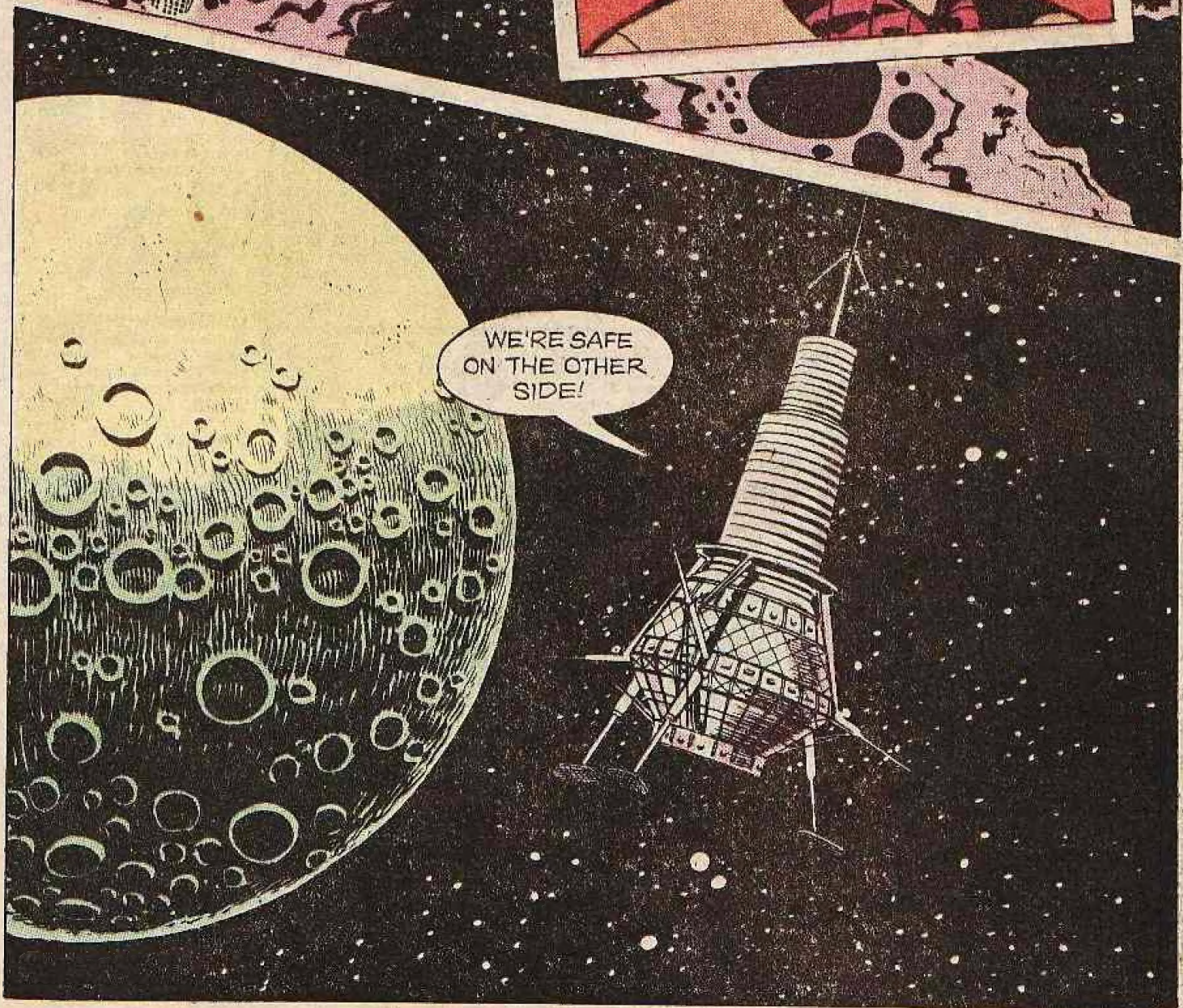


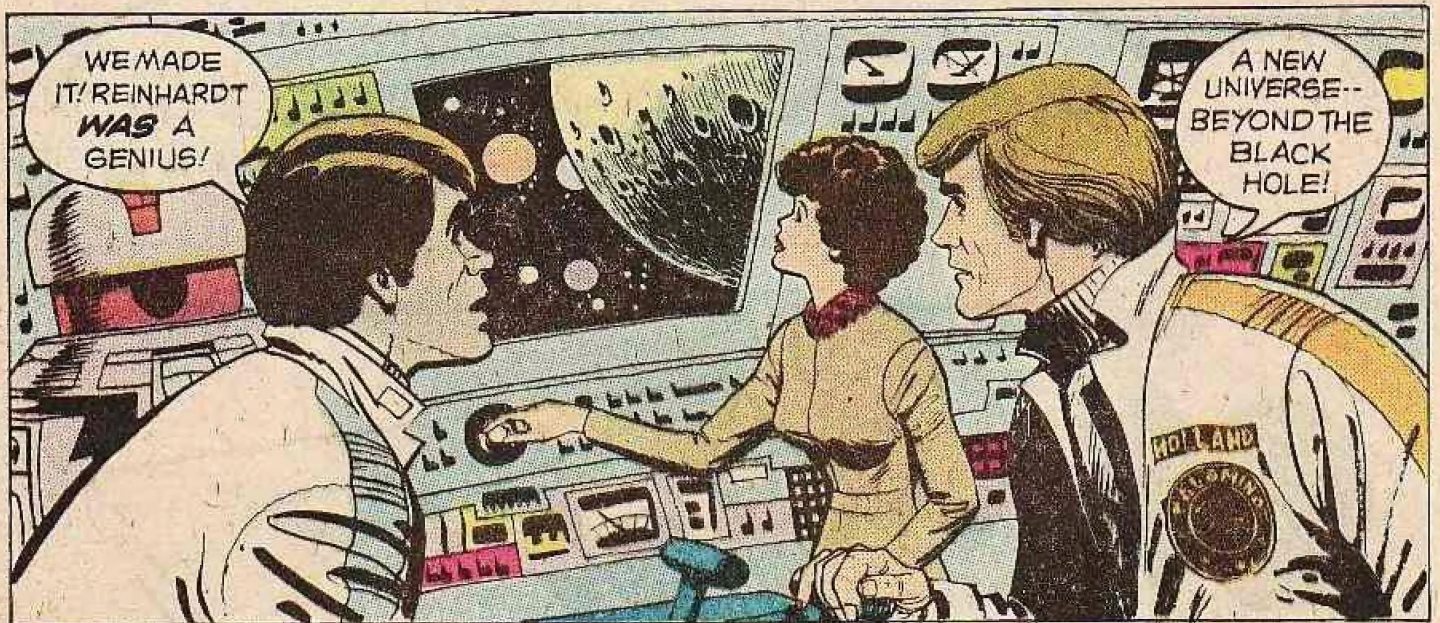
STUNNED BY THE FORCES WHICH
TEAR AT THEM, THE PALOMINO'S
CREW APPEAR TO SLEEP..

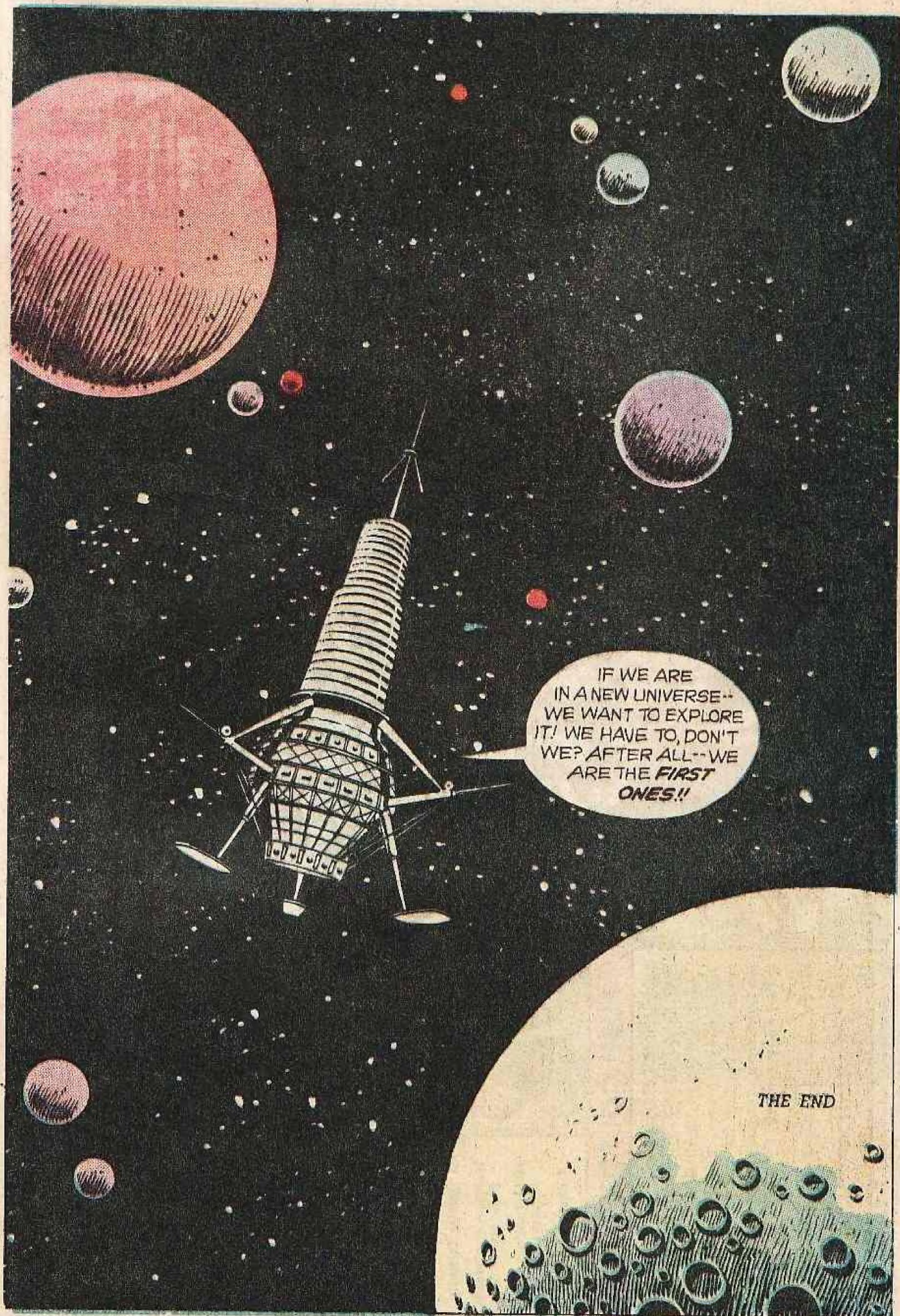


AND WHILE THEY DO, THE SHIP FALLS
TOWARD THE BLINDING CORE OF THE
BLACK HOLE...

AND THEN...

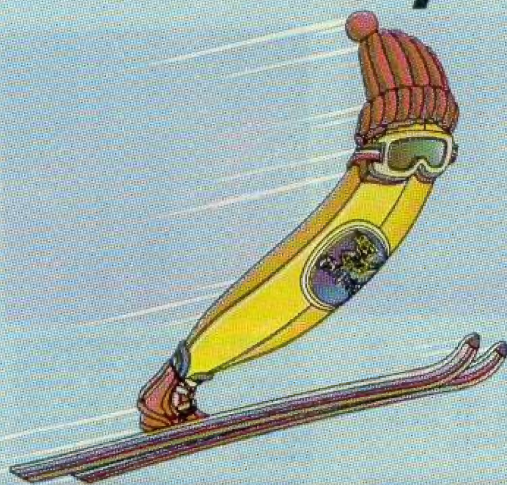






NEXT ISSUE—BEYOND THE BLACK HOLE!

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